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ARAB TIMES

National Bank of Kuwait

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Pretoria lifts ban on ANC

CAPE TOWN, Feb. 2. (Agencies): President Frederik de Klerk today lifted a 30-year ban on the African National Congress and ordered other far-reaching reforms that meet most conditions of the black majority for negotiations on a political settlement to South Africa's protracted racial conflict.

De Klerk did not set a precise date for the release of black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela from life imprisonment nor did he lift a three-year-old state of emergency in its entirety. But he said the emergency regulations would be eased significantly and that Mandela's release would occur "soon."

"We seem to be on the way to the new South Africa," said Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, 1984 Nobel peace laureate and one of the world's most recognised leaders in the anti-apartheid movement.

The measures represented the most substantial racial reforms since the National Party won power in 1948 and erected the statutory discriminatory laws known as apartheid that have left South Africa shunned by the world at large.

De Klerk announced his reform measures while speaking at the opening session of parliament.

De Klerk declared the following:

- Jailed black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela to be freed soon.
- Lifting of 30-year-old bans on African National Congress, main organisation fighting white rule, and more radical pan-Africanist congress.
- Lifting of 40-year-old ban on South African Communist Party.
- Lifting of restrictions on 33 other anti-apartheid organisations including giant United Democratic Front coalition.
- Freeing of political prisoners.
- Lifting of emergency media censorship but formulation of new laws to restrict "visual material covering scenes of unrest."
- Other longstanding laws restricting media reporting remain in force.
- Moratorium on hangings.

(See Page 6)

Bush gets support Call for troop cut

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2. (Reuters): President George Bush's proposal to cut US and Soviet troop levels in central Europe to 195,000 troops has drawn a favourable initial response from allies and the Soviet Union.

Nato Secretary-General Manfred Woerner said yesterday the proposal had broad support in the western alliance while a Soviet spokesman called it a step in the right direction.

Woerner said North Atlantic Treaty Organisation ambassadors had considered the plan. "The initial consultation showed there was broad support in principle for President Bush's proposals, to be pursued in the CFE (Conventional Forces in Europe) talks," he added.

(Details Page 5)

No room for talks on water: Turkey

By Faithma Ahmed
Arab Times staff

TURKEY has rejected the idea of "mediation" in the Euphrates water dispute because the diversion of the river waters is a purely technical matter, high-level Turkish officials said.

Iraq had recently made contacts with friendly Arab governments to mediate on the issue. Kuwait had announced its intention to use its good offices and make contacts to end the dispute.

A Turkish official said: "There is no room for talks."

On Jan. 13, Turkey diverted much of the Euphrates water to the giant Ataturk Dam. Iraq and Syria have objected to the temporary diversion of the river waters, which the Turks say was needed to fill the Ataturk Dam. The diversion ends on Feb. 13.

Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait, Guner Ozek, commenting on the issue said: "The problem is purely technical, because of this technical nature, nobody can speak about mediation," reiterated Ozek.

Syria and Iraq have been clamouring for a reduction in the duration to under 30 days. A high-level Turkish official said actually they needed 40 days to fill the dam but they had reduced the duration to an "absolute minimum" of 30 days.

A further reduction, he said, was not possible.

Before the diversion of waters began, Turkey had tabled a "three-stage plan for optimum, equitable, reasonable utilisation of waters of Tigris and Euphrates Basin," an official source said. In 1989, Turkey had invited Iraqi and Syrian officials.

(Continued on Page 9)

E. Beirut savaged

113 killed, 480 hurt in Aoun-Geagea clash

BEIRUT, Feb. 2. (Agencies): Lebanon's warring Christians rained hundreds of shells on East Beirut today, trapping children in schools and the wounded in the rubble of one of the worst battles in the city's history.

Outside the Christian enclave, Syrian-backed President Elias Hrawi said he was ready to send in his mainly Muslim forces to stop the bloodletting if the Christian Lebanese Forces militia asked him.

The LF, locked in savage battles with the troops of Christian General Michel Aoun, urged "rational" leaders to intervene to oust him. The appeal was not addressed directly to Hrawi but political sources said it might be taken that way.

"Stop this mass suicide," Maronite Christian church leader Nasrallah Butros Sfeir pleaded over the radio. But a ceasefire he sought to arrange at 2 pm (1200 GMT) went unheeded.

At least 113 people have been killed and 480 wounded since fighting flared on Wednesday after Aoun ordered the militia to lay down its arms.

Killings not politically motivated; police look to labour dispute



Al Basri lies dead outside his Bangkok apartment. (Reuters wirephoto)



Thai police inspect the car in which a Saudi embassy employee and driver were killed by a gunman. (Reuters wirephoto)

3 Saudis killed in Bangkok

Riyadh denounces terrorist act; manhunt on

BANGKOK, Feb. 2. (Agencies): Thai police investigating Thursday's fatal shooting of a Saudi diplomat and two embassy employees said today it was unlikely to have been politically motivated.

Although information was sketchy, first indications were that the murders may have been the result of disputes over the employment of Thai labourers to work in Saudi Arabia.

All three victims of the daylight shootings in a quiet southern Bangkok suburb worked in the consular section which arranges recruitment of

thousands of Thais in labouring and service industry jobs.

The second secretary in the consular section, Abdullah Abdel Rahman Al Basri, was shot dead outside his apartment block as he returned from work.

At almost exactly the same time consular section staff member Fahd Abdullah Al Bahli and driver Ahmed Abdullah As Saif were shot as they arrived at the gate of Fahd's house less than one kilometre (half a mile) away.

Police said at least two gunmen were involved. They quoted witnesses as saying one of the gunmen appeared to be of Middle Eastern appearance.

The gunman had pulled open the door of the stationary car and shot Al Saif twice and Al Bahli three times, police said. Shell cases from a 6.35 mm weapon were found nearby, they said. A witness told police the assailant appeared to be a Thai national.

Police said the first gunman had hidden in a parked car in the apartment compound and shot Al Basri as he was walking towards his second-floor home.

Interior Minister Banharn Siplak-Archa told reporters the killer was "Arab looking" but had no further details as to his identity.

Saudi officials in Bangkok were unavailable for comment.

A Saudi Foreign Ministry statement on Thursday said: "While expressing regret at this painful incident, the Saudi government... calls on the Thai government to shoulder its full responsibilities as soon as possible, uncover the criminal perpetrators and bring them to justice."

It expressed Saudi Arabia's "total denunciation of such suspect and terrorist acts" and said the

(Continued on Page 9)

India ready for war



A Kashmiri cries for help after his colleague fell to the ground hit by a policeman's bullet during demonstration near the Indian consulate in Karachi. (Reuters wirephoto)

Singh dares Pakistanis

Kashmir trouble flares

SRINAGAR, Feb. 2. (Agencies): At least four people were killed and nine injured today when paramilitary police fired on demonstrators in troubled Kashmir, where India is trying to stamp out a Muslim secessionist movement.

Paramilitary police in the town of Sopore, 50 km (30 miles) from Srinagar, fired into a stone-throwing crowd, killing four persons on the spot and sending six others to the hospital with bullet wounds, police and hospital sources said.

The crowd had gathered to offer prayers for those killed in anti-India clashes with security forces, residents in Sopore said. Troops fired when the crowd ignored curfew orders and turned violent, police said.

A magistrate in Sopore said in a telephone interview he was quelling his job after being forced to sign an order giving paramilitary police permission to fire on the crowd.

"I had refused, but they forced me to sign the order... and I have submitted by resignation," said magistrate Barkat Ali.

There was no immediate comment from the government.

In another incident Muslim militants shot and killed a Hindu businessman today as heavily armed soldiers patrolled the city, officials said.

The killing was the first reported attack on a Hindu by the Islamic militants since they took to the streets of Srinagar Jan. 20 to demand independence for the Kashmir region of northern Jammu-Kashmir state.

India accuses neighbouring Pakistan of instigating and arming the separatists. Pakistan routinely denies the charge and accuses India of trying to suppress the independence movement in Kashmir. Last week's bitter trading of accusations culminated in increased Pakistani and Indian military activities near their border.

Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh today said if Pakistan wanted a confrontation over Kashmir, the "Indian people and army are ready to give a befitting reply," the United News of India news agency reported.

Singh's statements, made at a government function in the eastern city of Calcutta, were the prime minister's first public remarks on possible hostilities between the two countries.

India and Pakistan have gone to war three times since they were partitioned in 1947 on gaining independence from Britain. Two of the wars have been over Kashmir, a region claimed by Pakistan.

The latest death in Srinagar brought to at least 73 the number of people killed since the Indian government cracked down on Jan. 20. Most of the victims have been Muslim protesters killed in armed clashes with security forces.

Today, the relaxation of a round-the-clock curfew was limited to six hours beginning at 5 am (2330 GMT Thursday), apparently in anticipation of the Friday Muslim holiday, which has become a weekly flashpoint for militant violence. The last few days the curfew was relaxed from 5 am to 5 pm.

In the past, mosque loudspeakers have broadcast speeches exhorting Muslims to battle security forces in their campaign to achieve independence from mostly Hindu India. No broadcasts were heard today.

Police said militants and paramilitary federal troops exchanged gunfire in the old district of Srinagar.

Gov. Jagmohan, said a Hindu businessman, Satish Tikku, was shot in the head by two unidentified gunmen at his Srinagar home.

Police sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Tikku probably was killed because the militants suspected him of being a police informer — not because he was a Hindu.

But Jagmohan, a Hindu, ordered increased security in the predominantly Hindu Jammu region of the state to prevent retaliatory attacks on Muslims, a government source said. Jammu, the winter capital of the state, is 150 kilometres (95 miles) south of Srinagar, the predominantly Muslim summer capital and centre of the separatist movement.

(Continued on Page 2)

Threat ruled out

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2. (Kuna): US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney has crossed out the possibility that the withdrawal of Soviet forces in Europe might prompt them to have more of an influence on the Arabian Gulf region and its oil resources.

The defence secretary made his comment during a lengthy hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee, which has started debating the defence authorisation bill.

Responding to a question by one senator, Cheney said he had heard the "theory" that if the Soviets withdraw from Eastern Europe and take all those forces back east of the Urals, they would have put them (these forces) directly north of the Gulf "and that strategically would not necessarily be a positive development."

The US defence secretary expressed his belief that this is "a fairly far-out projection at present."

Weather

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Low water: 11.00 am, 12.00 noon
Sunrise: 6.37 am
Sunset: 5.27 pm
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Kuwait: 19°C 66°F
Ahmad: 18°C 64°F
Fahala: 18°C 64°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 8°C 46°F
Ahmad: 11°C 52°F
Fahala: 11°C 52°F
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 19°C 66°F
Ahmad: 15°C 59°F
Fahala: 15°C 59°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 85 per cent
Ahmad: 85 per cent
Fahala: 89 per cent

GDR plan for German unity

EAST BERLIN, Feb. 2. (Reuters): East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow said yesterday the two German states should be reunited gradually in a federal state with its capital in Berlin.

Modrow, a communist reformer, had softened his stance on German unification after talks with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow earlier this week.

But this was his clearest acknowledgement yet that unity seems inevitable.

"Germany should again become one united fatherland for all citizens of the German nation," he said, laying out a step-by-step plan to achieve this.

See Page 7



Hit by police
A South African press photographer receives first aid after he was hit by a police baton in Johannesburg.

Army is ready to crush Kosovo riots

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia, Feb. 2. (Reuters): The Yugoslav Army said today it was ready to use force to prevent civil war, by crushing ethnic Albanian riots that have killed around 30 people in Kosovo province.

Local media said Kosovo was on the verge of civil war and President Jabez Drnovsek flew in for crisis talks after nine days of fierce clashes between police and ethnic Albanians demanding political reforms in the Serbian-controlled region.

"The Yugoslav People's Army is ready and capable at all times of carrying out its constitutional duty to defend the sovereignty of the country, social order, the life and property of citizens," Deputy Defence Minister Stane Brovet told the Federal Assembly, or parliament.

"There will be no breaking up of Yugoslavia in any way, no violent takeover of power, nor will we permit a civil war in the country... the intentions (of the ethnic Albanians) must be prevented by all means available and even by force," he said.

'Rebels threat to democracy'

Aquino urges soldiers to actively defend constitution

MANILA, Feb 2, (Agencies): President Corazon Aquino said today rebel officers who launched a bloody coup attempt in December are the most serious threat to the survival of Philippine democracy.

She urged Filipino soldiers to "actively defend" the constitution. "Loyalty to the constitution ... rests most heavily on the shoulders of men in the military because they have the guns," Aquino said in a speech on the third anniversary of approval of a constitution drafted by her hand-picked allies in 1987.

"Their allegiance must be unequivocal because the greatest threat is from disloyal men

in possession of the state's own weaponry," she said.

Three thousand soldiers joined the army revolt in December, the sixth and most serious attempt to overthrow Aquino. Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos said 1,900 had been caught by government troops.

Rumours of another coup bid have continually swept the Philippine capital as rebel leaders like cashiered army Colonel Gregorio Honasan remain at large. He has warned they are prepared to launch another mutiny soon.

Tigers-Muslim accord on captives

COLOMBO, Feb 2, (Reuters): Tamil separatist guerrillas today began releasing more than 30 Muslims abducted over the past four days from tension-gripped Eastern Province, residents and rebel sources said.

They said the release followed a peace meeting yesterday called by Higher Education Minister Shafiq Hameed, who is chairing a government-appointed committee to restore peace among the warring Tamil and Muslim groups.

At the meeting, attended by leaders of the Muslim community and Tiger representatives, "it was agreed that all parties shall desist from violence

forthwith and release all persons in their custody," a government statement said.

A political bureau member of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, Yogaratnam Yogi, said the men were seized because they had weapons and knives.

He denied accusations by the Muslims Congress, a political party, that some of its members had been killed and others were harassed by the Tigers.

A Congress spokesman said 14 opposition political parties made a joint appeal to President Ranasinghe Premadasa yesterday to prevent the Tigers from harassing civilians and to restore law

and order.

Residents said Muslims-dominated towns of Kalmunai and Samanturai were slowly returning to normal today following the abductions and protest demonstrations.

They said four people were killed and more than 30 injured on Thursday when unidentified people attacked with bombs and guns demonstrations by Muslim youths against the abductions.

Yogi denied accusations by a Congress spokesman that the Tigers had killed five Muslim patients in a private hospital on Thursday.



Flight from crackdown

The first refugees from Indian Kashmir to arrive in 36 people trekked across the heavily guarded Pakistan tell how they fled through deep snow at night to escape Indian security crackdown. A total of

5 killed, 9 hurt in Kashmir clashes

(Continued from Page 1)

In Srinagar, soldiers in camouflage uniforms patrolled the city in trucks fitted with light machine-guns.

Reporters for the Associated Press and the French news agency Agence France-Press, who were driven around the city in a police jeep after curfew was re-imposed, saw at least six army trucks in one district.

The reporters, Dilip Ganguly of the AP and Anil Panna of AFP, yesterday were ordered to leave Jammu-Kashmir state immediately on the grounds their presence was "adjudged prejudicial to the security of the state."

Earlier, Ganguly and Panna, both Indian citizens, were not allowed to leave their hotel during the curfew relaxation this morning. It was not immediately clear whether the expulsion order, which was issued by a Srinagar district magistrate, would be enforced.

In the streets, paramilitary troops and state policemen partially blocked roads with steel drums and checked passing vehicles. Each barrier was backed by sandbagged bunkers manned by 11 policemen.

Witnesses speaking on condition of anonymity said at least 40 army trucks arrived in Srinagar late last night and early today. A standard Indian army truck carries about 40 soldiers.

Army troops were briefly used in the government crackdown but were withdrawn after violence in Srinagar subsided, leaving patrol duty to paramilitary police.

Pakistan today began a week of government orchestrated protest action in support of the uprising in Indian Kashmir with special prayers for the "martyrs" killed in recent weeks.

In mosques throughout the country, prayers were offered for the "freedom fighters" battling to tear Indian-controlled Kashmir from the Indian union.

Protest rallies followed Friday prayers in Rawalpindi and many other cities as people gathered to shout anti-Indian slogans and listen to denunciations of the Indian crackdown in the Kashmir valley.

The Pakistan government, which denies Indian charges of directly inciting Kashmiri secessionists, called for a week of solidarity action in protest at Indian action in Kashmir.

It also ordered all government offices to close next Monday when opposition groups have called for a national strike.

"We are certainly worried," said a senior Western envoy. "We are just not sure where this is going."

Increasingly rough statements from both capitals have fuelled fears that the war of words could spark clashes along the ceasefire line that divides Indian Kashmir from Pakistan's Azad (free) Kashmir.

The first refugees claiming to be fleeing Indian maltreatment and beatings have already started slipping across the control line, usually at night to avoid patrols.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq terminates India's rail contract: Iraq has unilaterally terminated India's contract for the maintenance and operation of its major rail line two years advance of schedule. The \$115 million contract was to be completed by 1992.

The Iraqi decision has come on the eve of a high level Iraqi Transport Ministry visit to India to discuss with Indian counterparts proposals for further expanding co-operation in communication and transport sectors. The contract was awarded to the Rail India Technical and Economic Service (RITES) a government of India undertaking.

The Iraqi government had informed the Rites sometime ago that they wanted to terminate contract prematurely as the war with Iran was over and the Arab country has enough technical staff to operate the rail network. Moreover retaining Rites would mean outflow of foreign exchange at a time when Iraqi economy was not in a good shape. (Kuna).

Poets denounce Ershad: A National poetry festival attended by 400 poets from all over Bangladesh began in Dhaka on Thursday with the slogan "poetry must resist terrorism" and with criticism of the Bangladesh president.

Inaugurating the festival, celebrated Bengali poet Shamsur Rahman accused the government of President Hussain Muhammad Ershad — who also considers himself to be a poet and patronises a biennial Asian poetry festival in Dhaka — of making efforts to push the country back into a medieval situation.

Shamsur Rahman said the Ershad government has joined hands with the Islamic fundamentalists and is acting against the spirit of the war of independence. (UPI)

Pirates kill three securitymen: Pirates posing as bridal party members shot dead three security men and took their arms on board a river ferry in southern Bangladesh, officials said yesterday.

They said around 30 pirates overpowered the Assam (para-police) on the ferry sailing along the Arakhan river near Barisal town on Thursday. The pirates then shot the security men with their own guns.

Two of the ferry crew who challenged the pirates were wounded. Ten passengers were injured while trying to escape by jumping overboard.

Police said the pirates forced the ferry crew to take them to a remote island. (Reuters)

One killed in cricket violence: A village cricket match erupted in violence over an umpire's disputed verdict, ending with one dead and more than 50 injured, Bangladesh sports officials said on Thursday. Police said they shot dead one man after teargas and truncheons failed to halt Wednesday's clash between rival fans at Madanganj, 50 km (33 miles) from Dhaka. (Reuters)

28 killed in bus-truck collision: At least 28 people were killed on Thursday when a bus and a truck collided in the south Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, the Press Trust of India reported.

The news agency said three others were injured in the accident in Medak district. (Reuters)

Gas suffocation kills six: An entire family of six persons died due to gas suffocation in a residential area of Qazetta city, the capital of Baluchistan province.

According to police a telephone and telegraph official put on gas heater in the sleeping room of the family to beat off extreme cold gripping Qazetta at night. When his wife and their four small children went to sleep the heater went off owing to low gas pressure. The room was filled with gas as a result of which the entire family suffocated to death.

The tragic incident was discovered on Thursday after five days when neighbours started smelling stink of dead bodies.

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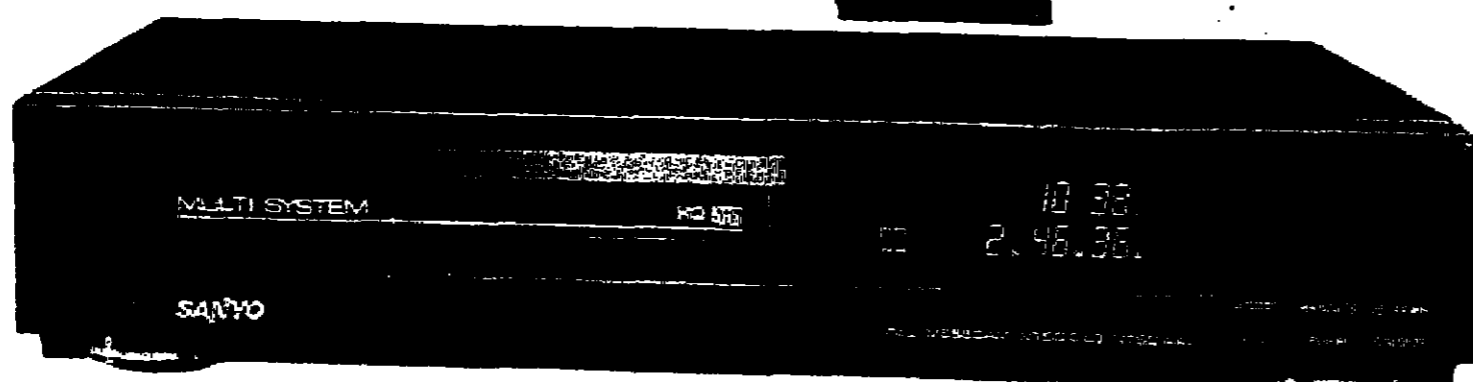
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CDs outstrip vinyl records

45s disappearing

LONDON, Feb 2, (Reuters): American comic Rita Rudner always gets a sympathetic laugh when she says: "I just can't bring myself to buy a CD player until I have something in writing to say that's the last thing they're going to invent."

But a majority of the world's music lovers have succumbed to the lure of the latest invention, with the result that 45s and LPs will soon be as archaic as 78s.

Sales of compact discs outstripped vinyl records in most of the world's major music markets last year. Industry experts expect no new music releases on old-fashioned grooved records by the mid-1990s, and possibly sooner.

The 45 Rpm single that brought music to the masses for some 30 years is already becoming a dinosaur in Japan, the United States and Britain, the countries where 70 per cent of the world's \$15 billion worth of recorded music is sold each year.

What was the province of aficionados only four years ago is now found in cars, personal stereos and of course, homes. Compact discs offer listeners a crystal clear digital recording played by a laser that never wears out, they are easy to care for and store, and sound as good on the 1,000th playing as the first.

The newest chart topper in the United States, Roxette's "Listen To Your Heart," became the first single to hit number one without being released as a 45. Pop music fans snapped up the recording on either single cassettes, that play two songs on a continuous loop, or tiny single CDs, also with two songs.

Lack of interest in 45s has led the Warner Brothers records empire in the United States, one of the world's five dominant music companies, to say it will stop production of all 45s this year.

CBS-Sony announced a year ago that it would end the manufacture of all vinyl records, including 45s, in Japan, where CDs outsell vinyl by nine to one.

Polygram, Britain's largest record distributor, has been more cautious, saying that it will phase out all vinyl, including 45s, by the end of the decade.

But the British public has already consigned the 45 to the dustheap. The British phonographic industry has just announced that, for the first time, 45s in December accounted for less than half of all singles sold, overtaken by cassette and CD singles.

Long playing records are sure to follow. Worldwide sales of LPs fell almost 10 per cent in 1989, to 460 million units, while compact discs rose 37.5 per cent to 550 million, according to the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry.

EMI has a huge investment in record factories around the world, and so is not about to announce the end of vinyl, but Anderson said the company will "rationalise operation" over time.

Even the high price of CDs — \$15 in the States, around \$20 in Europe — does not seem to affect the demand for CDs, said Anderson, as sales rise even when prices are increased.

"People's expectations of sound quality are raised by what is available," said Anderson. "They no longer are willing to settle for inferior recordings."

But before Rudner and her friends decide it is finally safe to buy a CD player, they should know that the format is about to be challenged by two new technologies, digital audio tape and erasable compact disc.

DAT and CD-E, as those in the know like to call them, offer music lovers the quality of digital sound with the added cachet of the ability to record.

DAT players will be widely available in the United States and Europe by this summer, but at a price of more than \$1000.

But, like all new gadgets, industry experts expect the price to drop to an affordable level in only a few years. Soon after that, analog cassettes are expected to join vinyl records in the out-of-print bins of record shops.

Off the air by April

VOA to cut six lingos broadcast

WASHINGTON, Feb 2, (AP): The Voice of America informed employees yesterday that budget cuts have forced the elimination of six of its 43 language broadcasts, silencing the US government's radio station on three continents.

"We are doing to ourselves what 30 years of Soviet jamming couldn't do," VOA director Richard W. Carlson told hundreds of broadcasters, editors and engineers. "This is the toughest and saddest day of my professional life."

Going off the air by April 1 will be the Turkish, Greek, Slovenian, Lao, Uzbek and Swahili services. The 57 employees of those services will lose their jobs. Elimination of the six services will save VOA \$2.9 million, officials said.

VOA, which has been providing news and entertainment to millions of listeners since 1942, has been grappling with budget cuts for several years. Since 1987 it has laid off more than 200 people, shut down five bureaus in the United States and abroad, and eliminated hundreds of radio hours in various languages.

"If we don't get budget relief,

more cuts could be possible," said Carlson.

Carlson said VOA and its parent, the US Information Agency, had decided that "amputation" of several services was preferable to "dismemberment" of broadcast departments across the board.

The selection of the services to be eliminated was made in accordance with a list of priorities that takes into account the geopolitical importance of the targeted countries and the availability of other foreign media there.

Radio Free Europe, the US-funded Munich-based radio network that broadcasts only to Eastern Europe, has an Uzbek service. The British Broadcasting Corporation broadcasts in Slovenian, as well as in Greek and Turkish. Laos, a landlocked, impoverished communist country, is the only one of the six which does not receive foreign language broadcasts.

"This will cripple our efforts at a time of unprecedented change and opportunity," Carlson said. He praised the employees for helping fan the winds of revolution blowing throughout the world.

Quest for alien civilisations in universe

PASADENA, California, Feb 2, (AP): A sophisticated radio receiver soon to be installed in Argentina will help scientists scan the whole universe as they expand their search for signals from intelligent aliens in space.

"One of the fundamental questions that has faced the human species throughout history is, 'Are we alone? ... what is our place in the cosmos?'" said Louis Friedman, executive director of the non-profit planetary society.

Tim Lynch, the group's programme director, called the search for extraterrestrials "almost spiritual because if we find there is another civilisation somewhere else, it's evidence this planet can survive as well."

The planetary society — a Pasadena-based group that advocates space exploration — raised \$150,000 from its 125,000 members in 70 countries to pay for the high-tech radio signal analyser, named Megachannel Extraterrestrial Assay II.

Meta II, the size of two large refrigerators, will be flown to Argentina's Institute of Radioastronomy in two to three weeks, said Thomas McDonough, who co-ordinates the planetary society's part of the worldwide search for extraterrestrial intelligence programme known as SETI.

Two Argentine engineers have been building the device at the Harvard-Smithsonian Oak Ridge observatory in Harvard, Massachusetts, west of Boston.

Since 1985, the society's identical Meta receiver at the observatory has scanned the space visible from the northern hemisphere seeking a radio signal from an alien civilisation.

Steven Spielberg, director of the film "E.T., the Extra-Terrestrial," donated \$100,000 for the first Meta project.

Since 1960s, astronomers have conducted more than 50 separate but mostly limited searches for any radio waves that may have been intentionally beamed into space by extraterrestrials.

Almost all previous searches listened to space visible from the northern hemisphere, with only brief, partial scans of southern hemisphere skies from Australia and the Argentine institute, located

in a park 30 miles (48 kms) southeast of Buenos Aires.

Meta II tests will start in June after the 8.4 million-channel receiver is hooked to one of the institute's two dish-shaped, 98-foot-wide (30-metre-wide) radiotelescope antennas.

By its dedication on Oct 12 — the holiday commemorating Christopher Columbus' discovery of the new world in 1492 — the device will spend at least 12 hours daily for three or more years listening for signs that humanity is not alone.

Colomb discussed the Meta II project during visits to the planetary society on Tuesday and to NASA and the SETI institute in mountain view on Wednesday.



'Budgie has Landed'

A milliner's imagination takes flight in this creation from David Shilling's 1990 haute couture hat collection. Called 'The Budgie Has Landed,' it is modelled by Adi. (Reuter wirephoto)

tion. Called 'The Budgie Has Landed,' it is modelled by Adi. (Reuter wirephoto)

PEOPLE AND PLACES

LONDON: A 35-year-old bachelor won a record 1.5 million pound sterling (\$2.5 million) on Wednesday in Britain's biggest individual payout on the football pools.

Alan Hepburn scooped 1,505,443 pounds on a 45-pence (75 cents) stake, beating the previous British individual record of 1.3 million pounds (\$2.2 million) set in 1987.

He said his ambition was to test-drive a 100,000-pound (\$170,000) Ferrari Testarossa sports car. But even with his sizeable fortune he cannot buy the car because of a nine-year waiting list.

"I suppose I will just have to buy a new van for the business now," said Hepburn, an engineer from Oxfordshire. (Reuters)

LONDON: A high court judge on Wednesday awarded 251,000 pounds (\$422,000) damages to a stuntman who claimed his career was ended by injuries caused in a fall during the filming of the movie Superman IV.

London Cannon Films Ltd., had admitted liability for the accident in which stuntman John Lees fell 25 feet (7 metres) after harness wires snapped.

"My career as a stuntman is over and I don't think the damages reflected the lifestyle I had before the accident," said John Lees, 47, whose heels and left ankle were broken.

His lawyer told the court the Lees had undergone surgery and therapy but is permanently disabled and cannot sit or stand for long without discomfort. (AP)

HOLLYWOOD, Calif: Paramount Pictures said on Wednesday it entered into a five-year producing and directing partnership agreement with two producers credited with some of the top box-office film successes of the 1980s.

Don Simpson and Jerry Bruckheimer, whose movies include Flashdance, Beverly Hills Cop and Top Gun, and the studio entered into an exclusive agreement that the two men said provides them a unique level of producing and directing autonomy.

Five films are expected to be produced under the agreement, although Bruckheimer and Simpson said the number is flexible and could range from four to six films. The first film, Days of Thunder starring Tom Cruise and Randy Quaid, is now in production. (AP)

BOCA RATON, Florida: Thieves dressed as pest exterminators and carrying what appear to be jugs of chemicals have preyed upon dozens of homes recently in a section of south Florida, detectives said.

"They're eating us up," said Boca Raton police detective Guy Dileonardo. "And I think they have every intention of coming back."

The thieves, wearing work pants and heavy boots and carrying jugs of chemicals that look like pesticide, have talked their way into at least 33 homes in Boca Raton, Delray Beach, Pompano Beach, Tamarac and unincorporated Broward County in the past several weeks, scaling thousands of dollars in cash and jewellery.

"We think there are a lot of unreported cases because the victims are embarrassed," Broward county sheriff's spokesman Al Gordons said. "They feel ashamed because they let these guys into their houses." (UPI)

MILFORD, Conn.: A crime spree by a middle-aged Bonnie and Clyde who eluded capture in five states came to an end on Thursday when police nabbed them after a failed robbery that would have been their 34th in six weeks.

The couple, Edward Araujo, 46, and Ellen Marks, 50, were dubbed "Bonnie and Clyde" after the famous bank-robbing couple of the 1930s by New England and New York media after they held up a string of shops. They surrendered quietly after a brief police chase, police said.

Milford policeman Ed Kelly said his department was notified after the couple tried to rob a boutique.

LOS ANGELES: Prosecutors on Wednesday said they will retry Raymond Mackey on the 13 conspiracy and child-molestation charges on which a jury deadlocked during the marathon McMartin pre-school trial.

Superior court judge William Pounders accepted the decision to go forward with a new trial and urged that it begin quickly because "the range or emotions is very high." Pounders set a trial date of March 9.

Deputy district attorneys Lael Rubin and Roger Genson ended the suspense that had surrounded the case since Jan 18, when the jury in the longest and costliest criminal trial in US history acquitted Mackey and his mother on 52 molestation charges but deadlocked on 13 counts against Mackey.

Actor Richard Gere accompanied by model Cindy Crawford attends the North American premiere of 'Cinema Paradiso' in New York. The premiere will benefit the American Film Institute's National Centre for Film and Video Preservation. (Reuter Wirephoto)

Documents about killing of Russian royals up for sale

LONDON, Feb 2, (Reuters): Documents about the killing of Russia's royal family in 1918, including a telegram sent to the Kremlin confirming they had been shot, are going on sale in London.

Auctioneers Sotheby's said yesterday "The Romanovs: Documents and Photographs" were expected to fetch between £300,000 and 500,000 (\$500,000 and \$840,000) at the April 5 sale.

Among the items going under the hammer will be evidence compiled by a Nicolai Sokolov, an investigator appointed to examine the Romanovs' deaths by White Russian armies after they captured Ekaterinburg where Tsar Nicholas II and his immediate family were killed by revolutionaries.

Sokolov documented details of what happened to the Romanovs. He was believed to have taken the papers out of the country so they would not fall into the hands of the Red Army.

The whereabouts of the documents remained a mystery until last year when they turned up at Sotheby's. The auctioneers said the papers were brought to them by a niece of Prince Orlov, a Russian emigre who inherited the archive on Sokolov's death in the 1920s.

She knew of the existence in a bank vault of what her uncle had called his "dynamite papers" but had no idea what they were.

Among the papers was a coded telegram to the Kremlin sent on 17th July, 1918, the day of the execution of the imperial family 10 months after the Bolshevik revolution which toppled the Romanov dynasty.

Muslim leader found slain

TUCSON, Arizona, Feb 2, (AP): A Muslim leader was found slain Wednesday in a mosque, and a newspaper reported that he had received death threats because he believed the rest of the Islamic world was following a satanic version of the Holy Quran.

Authorities found Rashad Khalifa, 54, about 6 am at a mosque near the University of Arizona.

The Tucson Citizen said Khalifa was an imam, or prayer leader, who in 1978 founded a group called the "Right" or "True" Muslims. It was embraced by thousands of Muslim faithful.

The newspaper quoted Khalifa's assistant, Edip Yuksek, as saying he was "90 per cent sure" that Khalifa had been killed by someone with religious ties.

Yuksek said Khalifa was prominent in Muslim circles and was not hard to find, coming to the mosque at 2 a.m. daily to study the Quran and to write, the Citizen reported.

Yuksek told the newspaper, "he knew he would be killed because of his controversial research."

Tucson police Lt. Anthony Daykin said cause of death had not been determined but that Khalifa was a homicide victim.

Police said there were no signs of forced entry and the main door of the building was open when officers arrived.

In 1989, Khalifa told the Citizen he had proven through a 19-year computer study that all major components of the Quran, from verses to chapters, were composed with the common denominator of 19, and he contended that mathematical code proved that God and not man wrote the Quran, Islam's holy writings.

"The code proved that many Muslims were following satanic guidance. They were distorting the religion by following prophets that were men instead of God. These people do not want to give up their traditions," Khalifa told the Citizen last year.

In an interview, he told the newspaper that the mathematical code he discovered was "physical, verifiable and utterly irrefutable proof that the Quran is God's message to the world."

The newspaper added that Khalifa strongly felt the need to disseminate his discovery and did so by transmitting his writings by telephone facsimile machine throughout the Middle East, despite apparent threats against him.

He came to the United States from his native Egypt in 1969 and later earned a doctorate in chemistry at the University of California.

Death sentence for killing 3 women

SANTA MONICA, California, Feb 2, (AP): Relatives of the victims applauded as a former television cameraman convicted of strangling three women was sentenced to die in the gas chamber.

Dean Philip Carter, 34, showed no emotion as superior court Judge Robert W. Thomas ordered the sentence.

Carter still faces trial for two other killings during an 18-day spree in 1984.

A jury recommended execution after it convicted Carter of killing Culver City room-mates Juliette L. Mills, 24, and Susan Lynn Knoll, 33, and their friend, Bonnie Ann Guthrie, 24, of Los Angeles.

Carter stared at a wall, his arms folded, as relatives of the victims asked the judge to impose the death penalty.

"What was described as a loving father was the monster who murdered and raped my daughter," said Sue Mills, 55, mother of Juliette Mills.

Male-like fat more suspect Breast cancer

TAMPA, Fla. Feb 2, (Reuters): Women with male-like fat distribution over their stomachs and abdomens are six times more likely to develop breast cancer than those with traditional female fat deposits on their hips and thighs, a new study said yesterday.

"We have found that women with male body fat patterns are a segment of obese women who appear to be at significantly higher risk for developing breast cancer," said Dr David Schapira, a University of South Florida researcher who directed the study.

"In other words, it's not how much fat you have on your body, but where you have it."

The findings of the eight-month study of 648 women were published yesterday in "The Annals of Internal Medicine," a scientific journal.

Schapira said the findings of this study did not imply female body builders were at greater risk of contracting cancer.

"The women this study applies to have skinny rear ends and skinny little legs, and their weight is on their tummy. And that's more like the traditional male body pattern," he said.

"Women who are thinner who have their fat over their abdomens are at greater risk than heavier women who have it localized over their buttocks."

Schapira and his research team compared a group of 216 newly diagnosed breast cancer patients with another group of 432 women.

They measured fat deposits at specified body sites and found that breast-cancer patients had significantly greater deposits of upper body fat in several key body sites, and greater waist-to-hip and abdomen-to-thigh comparison ratios.

American doctors may have found a way to identify women with early breast cancer who are likely to suffer a recurrence — a discovery that will help them make better treatment decisions.



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Drug to cripple Aids on way

NEW YORK, Feb. 2, (AP) — Scientists say they have created what appears to be the most potent substance yet studied for stopping the Aids virus from reproducing, based on test-tube results.

The class of compounds apparently sabotages a process involving a virus enzyme called reverse transcriptase, the scientists said.

The compounds have not yet been tested on humans for effectiveness, but one of the substances was tried on six healthy men who tolerated without major side effects, the researchers reported in Thursday's issue of the British journal *Nature*.

The scientists are from the Rega Institute for Medical Research in Leuven, Belgium, and the Janssen Research Foundation in Beerse, Belgium, and in Spring House, Pennsylvania.

They conducted laboratory studies of compounds called *tibio derivatives*. In their tests, the compounds inhibited reproduction of the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome virus at concentrations that were 10,000 to 100,000 times lower than what would kill cells.

That compares to concentrations of 100 times to 10,000 times lower than a cell-killing dose required by AZT, the only approved drug for treating Aids, and the experimental drugs dideoxycytidine and dideoxyinosine, the researchers said.

This test-tube potency of the new compounds may bode well for avoiding side effects, but nobody knows what would happen in humans, cautioned Aids researcher Jay Levy of the University of California at San Francisco.

Many drugs that look promising in the test tube turn out to have unpredictable side effects, he said. And higher potency in the test tube does not necessarily mean greater effectiveness in people, he said.

Jeffrey Laurence of the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center said he was concerned that the compound highlighted in the study did not work against close relatives of the Aids virus, including HIV-2 and a monkey version of the Aids virus.

That suggests the Aids virus might become resistant to it by mutating only slightly, he said.

AZT effective

In a related development, a panel of US experts has recommended that AZT be prescribed more widely for people in early stages of infection by human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV.

Research has "clearly established" that AZT, or zidovudine, delays the onset of Aids in people infected with HIV, the Food and Drug Administration advisory committee said.

But the committee also emphasized "the need to carefully study and document the potential risks associated with prolonged zidovudine therapy, especially those related to the drug's cancer-causing potential, and any possible unique effects on women's fetuses and children."

The US government has approved AZT for use in patients who have full-blown Aids, but a government-sponsored study has shown the drug also can prolong the lives of people in earlier stages of the disease.

Some physicians already prescribed the drug for people with early or no symptoms of Aids.

AZT, made by Burroughs Wellcome Co., is the only US government approved drug that combats the Aids virus directly. It is being used by more than 40,000 people in the United States.

An estimated 800,000 to 1.3 million people in the United States are infected with HIV.

Free dose

Firefighters, police officers and health workers exposed to the Aids virus on the job can get free doses of the drug AZT in a pioneering programme in one California county, officials said yesterday.

Orange County officials said they believe it is the first organized programme nationwide to offer emergency workers access to the Aids-fighting drug.

"Health care workers are not the only people who get exposed (to Aids)," said Dr. Tom Prendergast, chief epidemiologist for the county south of Los Angeles. Paramedics, police and others who risk exposure also should have use of AZT, he said.

Three of five major goals for preventing sexually transmitted diseases by the end of 1990 aren't being met because of a historic increase in syphilis and lagging education efforts, US researchers said.

Cuban freighter searched US coast guard finds no drugs

TAMPICO, Mexico, Feb. 2, (UPI) — No drugs were found aboard a Cuban-chartered freighter that was attacked by the US coast guard after refusing to submit to a search in international waters, the Mexican navy said yesterday.

"Nothing has been found after a round-the-clock inspection that began at 8:40 Wednesday morning, when the *Hermann* was received by Mexican naval vessels," said a navy spokesman, who asked not to be identified.

The freighter was riddled with bullets fired by a US coast guard cutter before dawn Wednesday after the vessel's skipper refused to allow it to be searched for suspected illegal drugs.

The Panamanian-registered freighter, taking on water, belching black smoke and sending "mayday" distress calls, fled from international waters into Mexican territorial waters after the shooting Wednesday in the Gulf of Mexico.

The ship, suspected by US authorities to be carrying drugs, was docked at the Gulf port of Tampico, 200 miles (320 km) northeast of Mexico City.

The Mexican navy spokesman said the inspection included a search of all the vessel's cargo areas, ballast tanks, storerooms, anchor compartments and hull. Part of the search was conducted by divers, the spokesman said.

US coast guard Cmdr John McElwain, after learning that no drugs were found on the *Hermann*, defended the US action as in strict adherence to international law.

"We thought there were drugs on board" he said "that's the way it goes."

Asked if the shooting of the vessel was justified, he replied, "absolutely." Another coast guard spokesman had said Wednesday the *Hermann* had fit a "profile" of the type of ship often used in drug smuggling.

The US cutter *Chincoague* had sought to board the 250-foot (80 m) freighter in international waters for a day before the shooting and had received approval from the Panamanian government to board the vessel after the ship's captain denied permission, the coast guard said.

The coast guard is authorized to search a vessel on the basis of permission from a vessel's flag government, in this case Panama, the coast guard said. Panama also gave permission for the coast guard to open fire Wednesday in an attempt to disable the *Hermann*.

Upon completion of the military inspection yesterday the case was handed over the civilian officials, including the attorney general and the Tampico harbour master, the Mexican navy spokesman said.

Separately, the official Cuban news agency *Prensa Latina* said in a dispatch monitored in Mexico City that the 11 crewmen, none of whom were injured in the incident, arrived in Havana yesterday afternoon from Tampico, and were received by President Fidel Castro.



Lino de la Cruz Reyes, an electrician from the *Hermann*, displays a bullet he claims was retrieved from the ship after it was fired upon Jan. 31. (Reuter wirephoto)



Castro addressing a rally denouncing the US attack on *Hermann*. (Reuter wirephoto)

Olive oil less risky

High blood pressure drug pulled back

CHICAGO, Feb. 2, (AP) — The classic Mediterranean diet — high in olive oil and other unsaturated fats — is linked with lower blood cholesterol, lower blood pressure and lower blood sugar, say doctors who studied thousands of Italians.

At the same time, high consumption of butter and other animal fats — typical of the European-style diet of northern Italians — is associated with higher blood cholesterol, blood pressure and blood sugar, the researchers said.

"The message is not new, in a sense," said the lead researcher, Dr

Marizio Trevisan. "We've already been telling people that in order to have a low coronary risk-factor profile (risk of developing heart disease), they should have a diet low in saturated fats."

Saturated fats, derived largely from animal products and tropical oils, are usually solid at room temperature. Polyunsaturated fats, made from vegetable products are usually liquid at room temperature.

Monounsaturated fats, which include olive oil, are a separate class, and like the polyunsaturates, their consumption has been associated with lower blood-cholesterol levels and risk of heart disease.

The study, published in Friday's *Journal of the American Medical Association*, suggests the benefits of olive oil and other unsaturated fats may have a much broader range than expected, said Trevisan, associate professor in medicine at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

The researchers reported on 4,903 healthy Italian men and women ages 20 to 59 in an ongoing study exploring traits linked to atherosclerosis, a thickening of the arteries due to a buildup of fatty deposits inside them.

Atherosclerosis is the cause of more deaths in the United States than any other condition.

The study was conducted at nine medical centres throughout Italy. The people were questioned about their eating habits and were tested for levels of blood cholesterol, blood pressure and blood sugar.

In both sexes, higher consumption of butter and margarine was associated with increased blood pressure and increased blood-cholesterol levels, the study said, though the associations were statistically significant only in men. The researchers noted that margarine is typically made from unsaturated fats chemically altered, or hydrogenated, to be firm at room temperature and thus resemble saturated fats.

In both sexes, higher consumption of butter and margarine was associated with significantly higher levels of blood sugar, researchers said.

Whether elevated blood sugar levels — like high blood-cholesterol or blood pressure — play a role in heart disease is unclear and is under the intensive study, Trevisan said in a telephone interview Thursday.

Diabetes, in which the body fails to process blood sugar properly, is known to be linked with heart disease, but subjects in the Italian study all had blood-sugar levels in the normal range, rather than in the diabetic range.

Italians in the study who consumed more olive oil had significantly lower levels of systolic, or heart-contracting, blood pressure and of blood sugar and blood cholesterol in both sexes, researchers said.

The head of a House of Representatives investigations subcommittee wants the government to ensure that a lower-priced medicine for high blood pressure is available, now that both generic versions of a widely used anti-hypertension drug are off the market.

The second of two generic versions of SmithKline Beecham's *dyazide* was recalled Wednesday by its maker, Bolar Pharmaceutical Co. Inc., which is under fire for allegedly giving false test data to the US Food and Drug Administration.

Bolar also said it was recalling its 100 milligram extended-release phenytoin sodium capsules, a generic version of the epilepsy drug *dilantin* made by Parke-Davis.

Three indicted in New York Selling planes to Iran

NEW YORK, Feb. 2, (AP) — A US customs service sting operation led to the indictment yesterday of three men, one an Israeli, on charges of trying to arrange the sale of three American-made, Israeli-owned military cargo planes to Iran.

The indictment charged the men with conspiring to cover up the aircraft's true destination by submitting false papers to the US State Department which said the planes were to be bought by a Brazilian company.

The defendants were identified as intermediaries who arranged the sale, which was never completed. They were charged with one count of conspiracy, which accused them of trying to circumvent the Arms Export Control Act.

The law says the US State Department must approve all transfers abroad of American-made military goods and denies the sale of such goods to countries, such as Iran, that have supported acts of international terrorism. Assistant US Attorney Baruch Weiss said he could not

say whether Israel knew the planes, C-130E military cargo aircraft, were to be sold to Iran. The arranged sale price was \$12 million for each aircraft, he said.

The Brazilian company, which was not identified, allegedly was to receive \$500,000 for providing the false information to the State Department, the indictment said.

The defendants named in the indictment were Joseph O'Toole, 58, of Claremont, California, Richard St. Paul, 40, of Fairfield, Connecticut, and Ari Ben Menashe, an Israeli citizen.

All three were first arrested in April when the terms of the deal were finalized with an undercover customs agent. The case was then presented to a grand jury which returned the indictment.

Menashe has been jailed without bail since his arrest. The others are free on bond.

Weiss said he could not give more information about the defendants.



Cane toad may have medical use

The Australian cane toad, (shown above), an ugly and unloved pest whose less endearing habits include drowning its mate, may have something good to give the world after all.

Plans are underway to export the cane toad's venom to China, where a pharmaceutical company wants to offer it as a cure for a wide variety of ailments.

"Toad venom is already used in Chinese traditional medicine and we're sending them off a sample as soon as we can to find out whether cane toad venom is suitable," said Greg Stegman, chairman of the toad eradication committee of Brisbane City Council.

Robert Endean, associate professor of Zoology at the University of Queensland, said it was entirely feasible that cane toad venom could have medical applications.

"Many of the toxins associated with toads have a powerful effect on body processes, but they can also be highly dangerous," Endean said.

"You could end up killing yourself quite easily," he added.

The cane toad will eat any animal it can swallow. To prevent itself from meeting the same fate, it carries bulbous sacs of highly toxic bufonine which can kill a mammal such as a dog within five minutes.

The venom also causes humans excruciating pain and in some cases temporary blindness.

Some Australian natives by the creature and drink the water or dry and smoke toad skin to gain an hallucinogenic high from the toxin. To date there have been no reported deaths. (Reuter wirephoto).

MEDICAL FILE

Fluoride-cancer link: A study has found a possible link between fluoride and cancer in rats, but dental experts in New York said previous research gives strong evidence that fluoridated water is safe.

"You have to sort of consider that one study in relation to many others that have been carried out," said Colin Dawes, editor of the *Journal of Dental Research*.

"There's no material that's been added to the diet or water that's been more thoroughly tested than fluoride, in terms of its potential toxicological effects," he said.

The evidence against its causing cancer is overwhelming, said Dawes, professor of oral biology at the University of Manitoba. His journal is an official publication of the International Association for Dental Research. (AP)

Pressure pill cuts hip fractures: Older people who take one variety of commonly used blood pressure pills called diuretics may reduce their risk of hip fractures by one-third, according to a study.

The study found that people over 65 who used the type of diuretic known as thiazides appeared to suffer significantly fewer broken hips than nonusers.

They said that if the medicines work the way they believe, 21,600 hip fractures might be avoided if all older Americans took the medicine.

However, they cautioned that more study will be needed before the drugs could be prescribed solely to prevent fractures. They said experts will have to be sure that the benefits of this treatment outweigh the potential hazards. (AP)

Parkinson breakthrough: A man with severe Parkinson's disease is showing marked improvement nine months after tissue from four aborted fetuses was transplanted into his brain, a team of Swedish and British scientists said on Thursday.

Before the transplant, the unidentified 49-year-old patient had advanced Parkinson's with tremors and marked impairment of the arms and legs that left him disabled about 50 per cent of the time.

He began improving about two months after the transplant and now spends about 80 per cent of the day "in perfect condition" with no sign of Parkinson's symptoms, said Dr. Ole Lindvall of the University Hospital in Lund, Sweden, who led the research team.

The research team's findings are to be published in Friday's *Science* magazine. (Reuter)

Cystic fibrosis screenings: Medical researchers in America have just developed a new genetic test that can spot three quarters of all adults who risk having children with cystic fibrosis, raising the possibility that many couples will undergo routine screening and that fetuses that carry the defective gene could be aborted.

The tests, which scientists think will soon be widely available, mark "a new era for genetic counselling and prevention," said Arthur Beaudet of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas.

Scientists ask Bush to exert more efforts in fighting against global warming

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2, (AP) — More than 700 scientists, including 49 Nobel laureates, yesterday called on President George Bush to exert stronger leadership in dealing with global warming.

"Only by taking action now can we insure that future generations will not be put at risk," said the appeal sent to the president by the scientists, who represent a broad range of disciplines from medicine to physics. The group included more than a third of all the members of the National Academy of Sciences.

The expression of concern from the scientists came days before the opening of a new round of meetings of the intergovernmental panel on climate change, which is examining global warming and effective responses to it.

The Washington proceedings, which are expected to be attended by representatives from more than 60 countries, are part of an effort to draw up an international agreement, perhaps next year, on what to do about global warming.

Many environmentalists have chided Bush for failing to endorse specific reductions in so-called "greenhouse" gases, especially carbon dioxide. Some European countries have argued that industrial nations should commit themselves to at least a 20 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2000.

But the Bush administration has argued against such a commitment because no determination has been made on the economic impact of such curbs. Carbon dioxide,

primarily from the burning of fossil fuels, accounts for about half of all greenhouse gases world-wide. The United States accounts for a fifth of all greenhouse gas emissions.

The letter to Bush calling for immediate action in dealing with global warming was circulated in the scientific community by the union of concerned scientists, which has been critical of the administration's policy on global warming.

Henry W. Kendall, a professor of physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and chairman of the Union of Concerned Scientists, said in a letter to the president that he should "seize the opportunity" of the upcoming international conference to "demonstrate that

your administration is firmly committed to the task of global warming prevention."

The scientists acknowledged that "more research on global warming is necessary" but added "in view of the potential consequences, actions to curb the introduction of greenhouse gases... must be initiated immediately. Only by taking action now can we insure that future generations will not be put at risk."

"Uncertainty is no excuse for complacency," the scientists wrote Bush.

The international environmental group Greenpeace has called for industrialized nations to slash carbon dioxide emissions by 30 per cent in the next decade to help avert disasters threatened by global warming.



The graphic shows the operation procedure.



Fighting for life

The first baby in the world to undergo a successful heart operation while still in the womb is fighting for his life in a London hospital.

"The condition is still critical. There is no change," a spokeswoman for Guy's Hospital said.

Surgeons at the hospital announced on Wednesday that they had carried out the first successful heart operation on an unborn baby boy. But they said the child — delivered on Jan. 4, a week after the operation — was very ill.

The baby, Michele Vermillo, was diagnosed in his mother's womb as suffering from aortic stenosis, a severe narrowing of the aortic valve which controls the blood flow from the heart.

During the operation doctors inserted a hollow needle through the mother's womb into the baby's heart. They then passed a minute balloon through the needle and inflated it to open the valve.

The successful operation was performed at 33 weeks into the pregnancy, after an earlier attempt failed when the balloon burst. (Reuter wirephoto)

Hakim placed on probation by court

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2, (AP) — A US judge yesterday placed Iran-Contra figure Albert Hakim on two years probation and fined him \$5,000. The international businessman, also agreed to hand over to the US government \$7.3 million from secret arms sales to Iran.

US District Court Judge Gerhard Gesell imposed probation following Hakim's Nov. 21 guilty plea to a misdemeanor charge of helping to supplement Oliver North's government salary by arranging to pay for a \$13,800 security system at North's home. North was a former aid to the National Security Council.

"The American public has had enough of this soap opera," Hakim said after his court appearance.

Hakim is another in a string of Iran-Contra defendants who have escaped prison time.

Iran-Contra, the biggest foreign policy scandal of former President Ronald Reagan's eight years in office, involved the clandestine sale of arms to Iran and the diversion of some of the profits to rebels fighting the Nicaragua government when such assistance was banned by law.

"Very substantial funds — measured in the millions of dollars — which have been frozen" in Swiss bank accounts "have now been released to the United States by you," Gesell announced.

The amount to be turned over to the government is \$7.3 million, said Mary Belcher, a spokeswoman for the office of independent counsel Lawrence Walsh. She said Hakim will retain \$1.7 million, which he will split with Swiss-based lawyers, William Zucker and Philippe Neyroud.

Gesell said the Iranian-born Hakim and secured the release of David Jacobson, a US hostage held in Lebanon, and was cooperating with Iran-Contra prosecutors in a new criminal investigation matter.

Gesell noted that Jacobson, the former hostage, had written the judge on Hakim's behalf. The judge said that while others "have taken credit for" freeing the hostage, it was Hakim's conduct that actually achieved it.

At the request of the Justice Department, the Swiss government froze some \$7.8 million held in accounts of the "Enterprise," the maze of offshore companies and bank accounts Hakim and his business partner, retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Richard Secord, set up to handle money in the Iran-Contra affair. The money has accrued some \$1.2 million in interest.

Gesell placed one of Hakim's companies, Panamanian-based Lake Resources Inc., on probation and ordered that the corporation be dissolved.

هكذا في الامم

Bush proposes deeper superpower troop cuts

Europe lauds cut

Bush plan step in right direction

Promise to pull out US forces from Panama this month

WASHINGTON, Feb 2, (UPI): Seeking to "take the lead in forging peace," President George Bush proposed sharper superpower troop cuts Wednesday night, spurring US policy to catch up with the "revolution of '89" that has changed the shape of Europe.

In his first state of the union address, delivered to a joint session of Congress and a nationwide broadcast audience, Bush offered to cut from 275,000 to 195,000 a troop limit now under negotiation in East-West talks in Vienna — a drop of 80,000 troops.

In a 36-minute speech that offered an optimistic assessment of America's well-being and role in world affairs, Bush portrayed the troop cut proposal as evidence of "our new relationship with the Soviet Union," and declared:

"Today, with communism crumbling, our aim must be to ensure democracy's advances,

to take the lead in forging peace and freedom's best hope: a great and growing commonwealth of free nations."

America, he said, "stands at the centre of a widening circle of freedom."

Welcomed to the house chamber, where he once served, by hearty applause and handshakes, Bush was all smiles and enthusiasm. He greeted Vice-President Dan Quayle and House Speaker Thomas Foley, Democrat of Washington State, on the speaker's stand and smiled up to his wife, Barbara, watching from the gallery.

Except for the troop proposal and an announcement that US invasion forces would be out of Panama within four weeks, the address was largely philosophical — it emphasised

education goals and environmental aspirations, concern for children and the nation's needy, rooting out crime and drugs, and guaranteeing a continued economic expansion.

The arms control overture, however, was timely, offering a benefit not only to the United States but also to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who Bush has supported in recent weeks in the face of ethnic unrest and internal dissension.

Bush renewed his inaugural pledge of co-operation with congress but also put the majority Democrats on notice that his "no new taxes" campaign pledge stands and renewed his call for a capital gains tax cut — one of the most bitterly contested issues of the last session of Congress.

The President was interrupted by applause about 30 times, winning a standing ovation for his arms proposal. Some of the loudest applause greeted his denunciation of recent hate-inspired mail bombings as Bush exhorted Americans to "confront and condemn racism, anti-Semitism, bigotry and hate — not next week, not tomorrow, but right now."

Among the topics missing from the speech was China's where Bush's policy of renewing relations with Beijing despite the bloody suppression of pro-democracy students generated a bruising veto battle last week.

Likewise, the President did not mention several topics he has promoted in the past as worthy of constitutional amendments — abortion, school prayer, a balanced budget, a line-item veto and protection of the flag.

At the outset of the address, Bush marvelled at "the revolution of '89 — the dramatic events he likened in impact to the end of World War II — "change so striking that it marks the beginning of a new era in the world's affairs" and produced a wave of freedom from Poland to Panama.

With a US-backed government installed in Panama, Bush sought to repair Latin American resentment to the use of force that ousted Manuel Noriega in power by announcing US invasion troops would be home "before the end of February."

The Pentagon reported earlier that 16,500 troops remained in Panama and would be withdrawn to the level of 13,600 stationed there before the Dec 20 invasion.

One year into office and riding a wave of near-record popularity, Bush again extended a familiar hand of co-operation to Congress even while alluding to election-year fights in the offing over taxes and budget priorities.

"Let's work together to do the will of the people: Clean air, child care, the educational excellence act, crime and drugs. It's time to act: the farm bill, transportation policy, product liability reform, enterprise zones. It's time to act together," he said.

His boldest political stroke, however, was again on the foreign policy front, where Bush has claimed a string of successes over the last year even as key parts of his domestic agenda have languished before Congress.

Calling this "a period of great transition, great hope, yet great uncertainty," Bush reaffirmed the US commitment to the defence of Western Europe but said in view of changed circumstances, "troop levels can still be lower."

"The time is right to move forward on a conventional arms control agreement to move us to more appropriate levels of military forces in Europe," he said.

LONDON, Feb 2, (Agencies): West European leaders yesterday generally welcomed US President George Bush's proposals for further troop reductions in Europe but said they wanted a continued US military presence.

In Moscow, Soviet Foreign Ministry Gennady Gerasimov called Bush's proposal a step in the right direction, but said it did not go far enough.

"It's a good sign that things are changing for the better," Gerasimov said at yesterday's regular news briefing. "You can note in his speech that he needs American troops in Europe from here to eternity — 125,000 or about this figure. This is not a good sign."

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said in a statement she attached "great importance to President Bush's assurance that the new figure will be a floor and that no more reductions are envisaged."

"This will ensure a continued strong American presence in Europe," the statement said.

Thatcher aides said Bush telephoned her Saturday to discuss the proposal. "We indicated our support," the statement said.

Bush, in his State of the Union message Wednesday, proposed that Washington and Moscow cut troop levels in Central Europe to 195,000 on each side — below the 275,000 figure being negotiated at talks in Vienna.

The United States has 305,000 troops in Central Europe, and the Soviet Union has 365,000. Another 30,000 US troops in

Britain and Southern Europe are excluded from the Bush proposal.

A US official has said Bush sent Lawrence Eagleburger, his deputy secretary of state, and Robert Gates, the deputy national security adviser, to present his plan to the leaders of Britain, France, West Germany and Italy.

Having secured endorsement from those nations, Bush then called Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to inform him of the proposal.

In West Germany, where most of the US troops are deployed, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher called Bush's proposal "an important step forward." Defence Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg called it "a balanced combination of disarmament policy and unequivocal recognition of the West's defence readiness and alliance solidarity."

The caution expressed by Britain underlined anxieties about the prospect of all US troops leaving in the face of possible German reunification.

Manfred Woerner, secretary general of the 16-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, said in Brussels the European allies offered their "broad support in principle."

Woerner said the Bush plan was consistent with US promises "to maintain significant military forces in Europe as necessary to alliance security."

In Paris, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas called the proposal "an important step on the road to disarmament.... Bush

set an objective that takes into account at the same time Europeans' desire for disarmament and their security concerns."

Some smaller West European nations followed Thatcher's basically cautious line.

Last week, Belgium said it was considering pulling its troops out of West Germany because of the demise of hardline communist leaderships in countries across Eastern Europe.

Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van Den Broek considered a cut-back to 195,000 troops to be the "minimum level" needed, Dutch television reported.

A Dutch Foreign Ministry statement said the proposed reductions were "feasible" because of the developments in Eastern Europe, but stressed the Soviets must match the US withdrawals.

Norway's Foreign Minister, Kjell Magne Bondevik, said in a radio interview that "the presence of US troops in Europe is still needed. We don't see it as a problem if their presence would be at a lower level than now."

Bush's proposal won prompt and bipartisan praise in Congress Wednesday as an overdue move that can benefit both superpowers.

The move, which brought prompt calls for deeper cuts in the Pentagon's \$307 billion budget for 1991, could ease pressure both on the defence budget and on Moscow, which is facing a rising tide of democracy in its Warsaw Pact allies.



Bush on phone with Gorbachev. (Reuter wirephoto)



Quayle and House Speaker Thomas Foley applaud as Bush gets ready to deliver his address.

US must 'stay alert'

Soviet threat will remain: Cheney

WASHINGTON, Feb 2, (Agencies): The Soviet Union is likely to pull all its troops from Europe by 1995, but the Western allies must remain wary of the "only nation on earth capable of destroying the United States," Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said.

Cheney said President George Bush's new proposal that Moscow and Washington seek agreement on deeper troop cuts in Europe than previously contemplated would "preserve... a viable, useful" US military presence on the continent.

Bush in his State of the Union speech Wednesday proposed reducing US and Soviet combat forces in Europe to no more than 225,000 for each side — a drop of 50,000 from the previous US proposal at East-West troop reduction talks now under way in Vienna.

In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Cheney said "caution is still in order" in considering relaxing US defences, even though

Moscow is reducing its military spending and is unlikely to initiate an attack on NATO territory.

"The Soviet Union remains the only nation on earth capable of destroying the United States," Cheney said, adding that even if all Soviet troops leave Eastern Europe, Moscow would retain its geographic advantage in the event of a European crisis.

He said it was important not to drop below a certain troop level in Europe.

Sen. John Warner, the ranking Republican on the committee, sought and received an assurance from Cheney that the administration would not consider going beyond Bush's latest troop-cut proposal in the foreseeable future.

"This is the worst possible time to contemplate changes in strategy," Warner said.

Cheney estimated that the 225,000 US troops level in Europe could be achieved "within a year or two centrally" after an agreement is ratified. But he said the troops would be sent elsewhere and not removed from military service.

However, Sen. Alan Dixon pressed Cheney as to why the Bush administration would wait for an arms control agreement before reducing US troops in light of moves by US allies to cut their forces and pressures in the Eastern bloc for the Soviets to leave.

"They're going to get out of Eastern Europe whether they like it or not without any agreement with the United States," Dixon said. "They're going to kick them out. And we're waiting here to do things until we have the agreement."

"I'm not saying strip until we're naked. I'm saying do sensible things now here in our country even without agreements," Dixon said.

Cheney said the administration is not oblivious to the need to reduce US forces overseas.

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INTERNATIONAL

NEWS IN BRIEF

Asia

Thai Aids cases on the rise: Thailand is responding more effectively than other Asian nations to the threat of the acquired immune deficiency syndrome, or Aids, but the number of cases is expected to grow tenfold by 1996, health experts said Wednesday in Bangkok.

The deadly syndrome, which attacks the body's immune system and is contracted through sexual contact, blood transfusions, or sharing contaminated needles, came late to Asia. The region has fewer sufferers than Africa and the United States, but that situation is changing, said Dr. Dragan Stern, Bangkok-based representative of the World Health Organisation.

"The epidemic is here, and it is spreading," he told a conference on Aids and reproductive health. (AP)

Snowfall leaves 27 dead: Snow blanketed much of Japan and South Korea on Thursday, the latest assault in a week of storms that have marred transportation and left more than two dozen people dead, officials said in Tokyo.

Tokyo, a city unused to anything more than a dusting of snow, woke up to find nearly 3 inches (7.6 centimetres) on the ground and more falling. By dawn, more than 3 inches (7.6 centimetres) had fallen in adjacent Yokohama and 7.5 inches (19 centimetres) in Mito, 63 miles (100 kilometres) northeast of Tokyo, the meteorological agency said.

In South Korea, about 10 inches (25 centimetres) of snow had fallen by nearly Thursday in Seoul, the capital city of 10 million people. (AP)

Gangster recruits through ads: Japanese industries have been hard-hit by a growing labour shortage, and the underworld is no exception.

Police on Thursday said they have arrested the boss of a yakuza, or Japanese criminal gang, who had been recruiting young men into the organisation through advertisements placed in job magazines.

"This boss was apparently too cheap with the salary, so the young mobsters kept leaving the group one after another. Then he had to resort to want-ads," said a police spokesman from Yokosuka, near Tokyo. (Reuters)

Record high cocaine, heroin seized: Japanese customs seized 133 kilograms (297 pounds) of cocaine and 24.95 kilograms (54.9 pounds) of heroin, both record highs, in 1989, the Finance Ministry said Wednesday.

A ministry report said that because of rigid enforcement of regulations in the United States, smugglers in Colombia and Bolivia were trying to market cocaine in Japan and Europe.

It said the amount of cocaine seized in 1989 was up sharply from the 168 grammes (5.9 ounces) in 1988 and the previous record high of 454 grammes (15.9 ounces) in 1987. (AP)

Floods kill 189: The final death toll from the floods and landslides which ravaged central Java last week is thought to be 189, with over 45,000 people left homeless, an official of the natural disaster control said.

The official news agency Antara quoted the official on Friday as saying the disaster wiped out more than 12,000 hectares of rice paddy-fields and 1,500 hectares of shrimp ponds.

The cost of the damage was estimated at \$8.75 billion rupiah (\$4.84 million). (Reuters)

3-million-year-old teeth found: Two human teeth found in southwestern China are now believed to be 3 million years old — 500,000 years older than the earliest human remains found in Africa, an official report said Thursday in Beijing.

The Xinhua News Agency said Chinese archaeologist Qian Fang announced at a recent symposium that the teeth, originally believed to be 1.7 million years old, had been redated.

The fossilised teeth were found in 1965 in Yuanmou county in Yunnan province. Qian said the age of the teeth was recalculated by using a technique called palaeomagnetic dating of the earth's stratum where they were found. (AP)

China frees over 7,000 slaves: More than 7,000 women and children have been freed from slavery and five gangs that traded in slaves have been cracked, a Chinese newspaper said on Thursday.

Latin America

\$284m aid for Salvador: The US State Department announced Thursday a proposed \$55 million increase in economic assistance for El Salvador as Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani headed into high-level meetings here.

Before the formal announcement, an administration official had confirmed a published report that an aid cut was planned, but the official figures showed \$284 million proposed for El Salvador for fiscal 1991 compared with \$229 million for the current year. The official was unavailable afterward to explain the discrepancy.

Other Central American countries, however, were cut back as part of a general reordering of priorities the administration is undertaking in light of additional claims on the aid programme in Panama and Eastern Europe. (AP)

Moscow confirms copter delivery: The Soviet Embassy on Wednesday in Washington confirmed that it has shipped four Mi-17 helicopters to Nicaragua recently but said the aircraft were built for civilian use.

The embassy statement, issued in response to news reports about the shipment, did not rule out the possibility that the helicopters may be converted to military use.

Secretary of US State James A. Baker said the Soviets have given assurances that helicopters will not be outfitted for military purposes. (AP)

Lusinski probe ordered: The Venezuelan Congress agreed to investigate former President Jaime Lusinski over charges of misusing nearly \$400,000 of secret funds earmarked for the state security but spent purchasing 65 jeeps.

The investigation will be carried out by a special committee to be appointed next week. Congress sources said.

The Wednesday evening decision, supported by opposition congressmen of the Social Christian Copei and Movement toward Socialism (MAS) parties, was a step forward in a drive to impeach Lusinski.

Lusinski has been the target of an almost ceaseless campaign charging some of his aides of alleged corruption during his administration (1984-89) amounting to billions of dollars. (AP)

Cuba presides over UN: Cuba's UN representative, Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, took over the presidency of the Security Council on Thursday — the first time a Cuban has held the post since 1957.

SA lifts ban on ANC, Mandela release soon

De Klerk reform package wins acclaim: Bush praises but cautious

CAPE TOWN: President F.W. de Klerk today legalised the African National Congress after 30 years of guerrilla war against white rule and said imprisoned ANC leader Nelson Mandela would soon be free.

The president also scrapped other restrictions on opposition activity in a bid to draw the ANC into negotiations on a new constitution.

De Klerk's speech to Parliament reversed decades of ruling National Party policy and further eroded the apartheid system of racial segregation and political dominance by the white minority.

Police used tear-gas and dogs to disperse hundreds of blacks who flocked into central Johannesburg chanting "Viva ANC" in spontaneous celebration of de Klerk's announcement.

Four were injured, a student activist said.

Black activists, white businessmen and foreign governments praised what they called de Klerk's courage.

The ANC said the speech "goes a long way to creating the climate conducive to negotiations," but did not indicate immediately how soon its exiled leaders would take the negotiations, but did not indicate immediately how soon its exiled leaders would take the negotiations, but did not indicate immediately how soon its exiled leaders would take the negotiations.

US President George Bush today praised de Klerk's move but said further development of those trends would be needed before he ends US economic sanctions against Pretoria.

Probe ordered into cell 'hanging'

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 2, (AP) President F.W. de Klerk ordered a judicial inquiry Wednesday into the death of a 20-year-old black man found hanging in his prison cell.

The man, Clayton Sithole, reportedly was a former lover of jailed black leader Nelson Mandela's daughter.

Police said Sithole was found hanging from a shower pipe Tuesday at John Vorster Square, Johannesburg's central police station.

Sithole and four other suspects were arrested Friday in the black township of Soweto. Police accused the group of killing 10 people, including two policemen, in hand grenade and automatic rifle attacks over the past two years.

De Klerk ordered the investigation within hours of the police announcement. No such step has ever been taken despite previous incidents in which black activists died while in police custody.

Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok expressed condolences to Sithole's family.

There was no indication that De Klerk's decision to order the inquiry was related to the reported link to the Mandela family.

Police said an investigation into the death had started and De Klerk had appointed a judge to head the inquiry commission.

According to local newspapers, Sithole was a former lover of Zindzi Mandela and fathered one of her three children. There was no immediate comment from the Mandelas, but family associates said they believed the report was accurate.

A family friend of the Mandelas, who requested anonymity, said Sithole had belonged to a controversial group of young men who served Nelson Mandela's wife, Winnie. Nine people associated with the group have been in custody for months awaiting trial for the death of a young black activist.

As a result of probe announcement, anti-apartheid activists cancelled plans to hold a demonstration in Cape Town to protest alleged government inaction on the killings.

De Klerk's move also appeared intended to limit potential damage from further disclosures by a white former police captain, Dirk Coetzee, who told a newspaper late last year he led a police death squad that killed several government critics.

Denis Worrall, co-leader of the Anti-Apartheid Democratic Party, said he welcomed De Klerk's swift response.

"It is surprising that President De Klerk would do this," said Worrall. "I'm quite sure that a judicial commission of inquiry would be justified."

Andrew Coleman, a prominent human rights activist, said Sithole's family suspected the young man had been mistreated and would obtain an independent autopsy.

Police said Sithole had made a confession to a magistrate prior to his death, implicating himself in several killings. Police reportedly were investigating whether Sithole and the other suspects were ANC guerrillas.

About 100 ANC guerrillas and anti-apartheid activists have died in police custody in the past 25 years.

According to police, suicide by hanging has been the most common cause of these deaths, but human rights groups have insisted that many of these prisoners were mistreated by interrogators.

A 20-year-old white soldier has been arrested in connection with the murders of three blacks who were abducted in a minibus, shot and left at intervals along a highway, police said.

The suspect was identified as Pieter van der Merwe, a conscript serving in an army artillery brigade.

"I view it (the South African decision) positively and I think most people around the world will," Bush told reporters aboard his aircraft Air Force One during a flight to Raleigh, North Carolina.

The White House said yesterday that Bush will invite Mandela and de Klerk to Washington for separate meetings if Mandela is freed from jail.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher called the speech "a historic landmark" and said Mandela should be released immediately. She also said both would be invited to visit Britain.

De Klerk has already been invited to an early meeting at Chequers, her official country residence. The European Economic Community also welcomed the promise to release Mandela.

De Klerk, in the nationally broadcast address, gave no date for Mandela's release, saying a "further short passage of time" was necessary.

He told the opening session of Parliament he would lift bans or restrictions on more than 60 opposition groups, free most prisoners jailed for belonging to these groups, declare a moratorium on executions and scrap most of the restrictions imposed during more than three years of a state of emergency.

These are the main steps demanded by Mandela and the ANC as preconditions for negotiations on a new constitution that would end the black majority's exclusion from national politics. Mandela has offered to mediate such talks.

De Klerk told Parliament that the alternative to negotiation was "growing violence, tension and conflict."

"The season of violence is over," he said. "The time for reconstruction and reconciliation has arrived," he said in his speech, which was greeted by cheers from supporters and silence from the right-wing opposition.

Later, Anders Treurnicht, leader of the pro-apartheid Conservative Party, described the speech as shocking and challenged de Klerk to call an immediate election for white voters to see if they backed his decision.

De Klerk said Mandela's "personal circumstances and safety" were among the factors holding up his release.

"I want to put it plainly that the government has decided to release Nelson Mandela unconditionally," he said. "The government will take a decision soon on the date of his release. Unfortunately, a further short passage of time is unavoidable."

Education and Development Minister Stoffel van der Merwe, briefing reporters on the speech, said: "I don't think we will see Christmas with Mr. Mandela in jail."

Government sources said, Mandela's release could come in a week's time.

"I think we are talking of just another," said one source after listening to de Klerk's landmark speech in Cape Town, but stressed he did not know the release date.

Mandela's wife, Winnie, said the legalisation of banned groups without additional changes was "simply a recipe for further problems."

Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu was delighted. "It's been an incredible day, to listen to what he had to say, actually unbelievable," he said in a US television interview. "We are almost on the verge of being euphoric because political life has been normalised in our country."

"Victory is in sight," veteran ANC leader Walter Sisulu said in Stockholm, Sweden.

In the major cities of Johannesburg and Durban, hundreds of blacks danced in the streets in celebration of the ANC's legalisation. When marches converged outside the Johannesburg offices of the trade union federation, police ordered them to disperse and sprayed tear-gas.

White human rights leaders, liberal politicians and business executives welcomed the speech. Average share prices on the Johannesburg stock exchange rose sharply.

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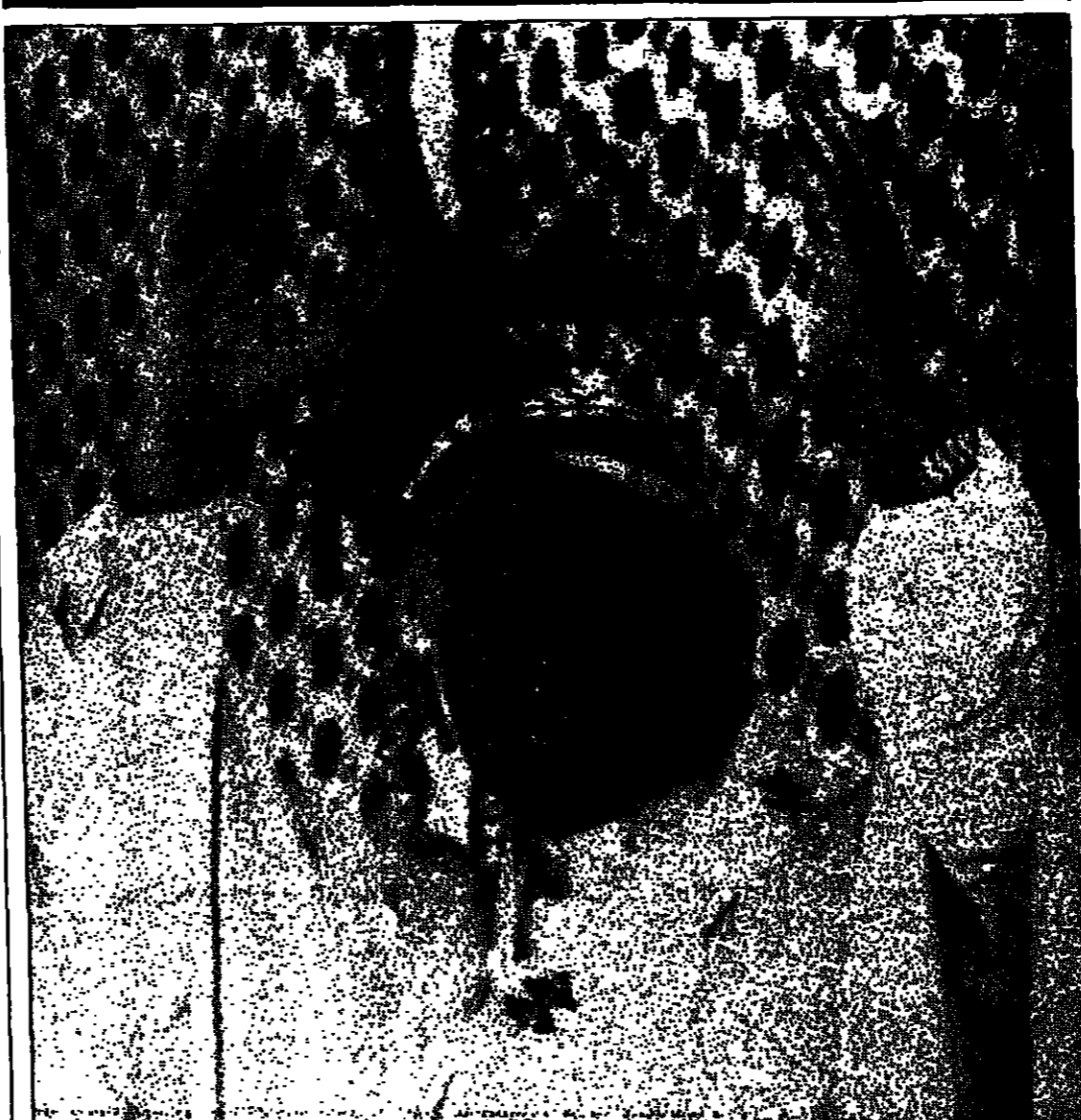
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Pope crusade for Africa aid

In a crusading journey from the Atlantic to the parched centre of Africa, Pope John Paul II has begged the world not to forget the continent's suffering because of upheaval in Eastern Europe.

Throughout his eight-day trip the Polish-born Pontiff, himself credited with a major role in the process that led to democratic change in the East, passionately called on the rich countries not to abandon Africa to poverty, hunger and conflict.

It was a message so important to him that in Burkina Faso the Pope confided in local bishops that he could not have died in peace if he had not made his appeal.

"Fratricidal indifference" to the poor was his constant theme, and the Pope said it was an act of God that he could tour the drought-stricken sub-Saharan Sahel at a time when Eastern Europe was blinding the world to Africa's grinding poverty.

His message was summed up by two keynote addresses in Burkina Faso and in Chad, shortly before the Pope left for home.

Picture shows the Pope blessing the crowd after he was offered a featured hat by an African chief in Moundou. (Reuters wirephoto)

Burma besieges Karens

MAE SOT, Thailand, Feb 2, (AP) — Some 2,000 Burmese troops are besieging one of the few remaining Karen rebel bases on the Thai frontier, and hundreds of civilians have fled the fighting, Thai border police said yesterday.

Government troops surrounded the camp at Waley, some 70 kilometres (43 miles) south of Thai border town of Mae Sot, earlier this week, said the police sources, speaking on condition of anonymity. On Wednesday, a force of about 500 Burmese attacked the southwestern part of the base, they said.

Two guerrillas were killed in the fighting but there were no reports of government casualties, police said.

Waley is both a military base and a black market centre for the Karens. It is defended by some 1,500 guerrillas. The Karens are among diverse ethnic rebel groups fighting the Rangoon government. They have battled since 1948 to resist the integration of the Karen state into the union of Burma.

In late 1988, the Burmese Army began a concerted drive to dislodge them from their bases on the Thai frontier.

During Wednesday's attack, up to 1,000 Karens, families of the guerrilla fighters, fled across the Moei River into Thailand, police said.

The fighting died down by evening, but police said that overnight, the guerrillas set fire to about 120 buildings in one part of the camp.

Burma's main rebel alliance has denounced an end to foreign arms supplies to the military government in Rangoon, according to a press statement seen yesterday.

The statement from the Democratic Alliance of Burma accused Israel, Pakistan, Singapore and South Korea of supplying weapons to Gen. Saw Maung's government, which seized power after crushing a pro-democracy movement in September 1988.

Kaifu holds his ground

Election debate

TOKYO, Feb 2, (Reuters) — Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu squared off against his political opponents today in Japan's first televised pre-election debate among party leaders in 30 years.

Political pundits declared the result, like the anticipated outcome of the election itself, a close call.

Kaifu stood his ground against sharp attacks on his ruling Liberal Democratic Party over tax, political ethics and quality of life issues.

He countered by stressing his record on foreign policy and his efforts to clean up the mess left by previous governments.

The LDP, in power since its formation in 1955, suffered an historic defeat in upper-house elections last July because of the unpopular sales tax, the recruit shares-for-favours scandal and farm policies.

At best, the ruling party can only expect to retain a simple majority in the lower house after the February 18 elections, according to political analysts. It previously held 294 of the 512 lower-house seats.

The official two-week campaign starts on Saturday. Kaifu has said he will step down if the LDP fails to muster a majority including Conservative independents.

Billed as the first of its kind since 1960, the three-hour debate at the National Press Club was relatively tame.

Kaifu, Japan Socialist Party (JSP) chairwoman Takako Doi and the other three party leaders made their points to a master of ceremonies, not each other. None ventured from their strict party platforms.

"There was nothing new in their remarks. I was expecting a fight-like, heated discussion," said one commentator who attended the session.

The debate was aired live on four of five national networks and is to be re-run on prime-time evening news.

Housewives and company workers, polled randomly in their homes or on the street, directed the sharpest criticism at the opposition parties.

"Voters are concerned about many current-day problems, but the opposition just kept attacking the LDP and hyping on the same old issues," said Emiko Oshima, a young nurse employed in a Tokyo clinic.

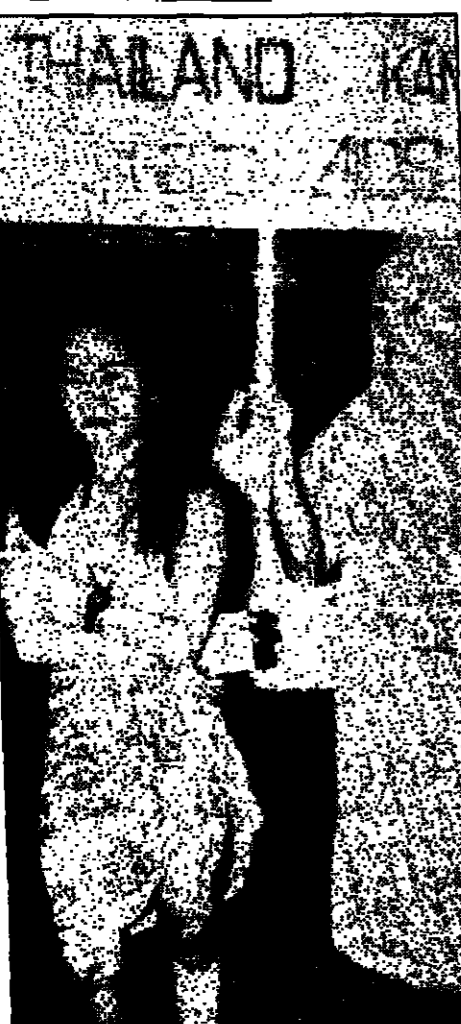
The opposition politicians didn't explain what they'll do after the election, and that's a major concern," said 30-year-old housewife Kyoko Kusakabe.

Only eight per cent of 300 viewers polled by the private network Tokyo Broadcasting system said the debate made them change their minds about whom to vote for.

"They didn't say anything concrete. Of course I knew there were limits on time," said Nobuko Konishi, a 52-year-old housewife who watched the debate.

But of those viewers who told TBS they had changed their minds, 41 per cent said they would now vote for the Japan Socialists, underlining a strong performance by the charismatic Doi, the first woman to head a Japanese political party.

"You (the LDP) have lied five times about the sales tax in the past four years," Doi told Kaifu in reference to the three per cent sales tax, the focus of Japan's volatile politics in the past year.



Anti-Aids campaign

Holding an anti-Aids poster and dressing as a condom, a Thai social worker stands next to a go-go dancer. (Reuters wirephoto)

Africa

March 21 set for independence: The constituent assembly voted unanimously Wednesday to set March 21 as independence day for Africa's last colony and end 75 years of South African rule in Namibia.

Leaders of the South West Africa People's Organisation, the dominant party in the assembly, said March 21 was chosen in part because the United Nations recognises it as the "international day for the elimination of apartheid."

For many years, South Africa's apartheid policies of racial segregation were imposed on Namibia's blacks. (AP)

Liberian troops upper hand: Liberian troops are gaining the upper hand in fighting against anti-government rebels in northeastern Nimba county, but at a heavy cost in lives and suffering, eyewitnesses said on Wednesday in Monrovia.

After more than a month of fighting that has killed hundreds and caused more than 65,000 people to flee to neighbouring Ivory Coast and Guinea, the reports said the army had not succeeded in quelling the unrest but had driven rebels out of many areas.

A local journalist who returned from the region on Wednesday said 25 bodies had been turned over to relatives for burial. They were identified as coming from the northeast Liberian towns of Karpalay, Bahr City, Bempa and Rastuo. (Reuters)

Adamson memorial service: The star of the film "Born Free" called for an end to wild animal killings Wednesday during a memorial service for animal conservationist George Adamson.

"Remember George's hope for the future, which inspired so many of us, that everyone will cease the senseless slaughter of all animals before it is too late," said Virginia McKenna, who played Joy Adamson, in the film about the couple's efforts to rear orphaned lion cubs in Kenya and return them to the wild.

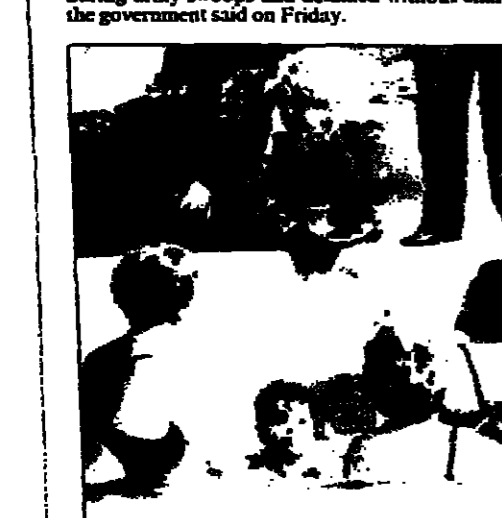
Adamson was murdered Aug 20, 1989, by bandits on the Kora National Reserve, Kenya, where he had lived since 1971. He was 83. (AP)

5 arrested in coup plot: Five men, including three military officers, were arrested after trying to destroy evidence linking them to an alleged attempt to assassinate Flight Lt. Jerry Rawlings, the Defence Ministry said Thursday in Accra, Ghana.

The ministry, in a statement released to the Ghanaian news agency, said the five had been under surveillance since the arrest of seven officers last November on charges of plotting to kill the nation's leader. Rawlings has been in charge since 1981, when he seized power in a coup.

One of the seven arrested last year hanged himself in jail, Ghanaian newspapers reported. (AP)

Uganda to free 2,400: Uganda will free a further 2,400 suspected rebels who were arrested during army swoops and detained without charge, the government said on Friday.



DI visits complex

The Princess of Wales talks to members of the public at the Crown Pools Swimming Complex, Ipswich, Feb 1 during her tour of the buildings. (Reuters wirephoto)

Angola claims capture of rebel stronghold: Unita denies

LISBON, Feb 2, (Reuters) — The Angolan Army said today it had captured the south-eastern rebel stronghold of Mavinga in some of the fiercest fighting in the country's 15-year civil war, the Portuguese news agency Lusa said.

Lusa quoted a military source as saying there were thousands of casualties from both

sides when government troops overran the Unita-held town on Wednesday.

Unita (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) officials in Lisbon were unavailable for immediate comment.

Unita officials in Lisbon contacted later reported heavy fighting overnight in the region but denied that the town had fallen.

They said that as of this morning, government troops were still 30 km (20 miles) from Mavinga.

Unita leader Jonas Savimbi broke off a European tour on Wednesday to lead his men in battle and upon his return to Angola announced an all-out offensive against the Cuban-backed military.

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Thatcher denies smear campaign

LONDON, Feb. 2, (AP): Newly discovered documents about an operation to discredit the Irish Republican Army in the 1970s contain no evidence of a smear campaign against British politicians, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said yesterday.

But lawmakers who claim they were targets of such an operation pressed for a full inquiry, warning the allegations would not disappear otherwise.

"The time has come for a full, open and honest uncovering of these things, so that people in Northern Ireland can know that this has come to an end, the dirty tricks that were carried on," said the Rev. Ian Paisley, the province's militant Protestant leader.

Paisley, described as a target of smears, had been leading opposition to government policy during the 1970s.

For years, Thatcher has denied allegations by former army press officer Colin Wallace of a dirty tricks campaign against the Irish Republican Army and some politicians.

On Wednesday, she acknowledged in a letter to Conservative Party lawmakers that her statements had been based on false information from civil servants. British ministers are forbidden to examine papers of former administrations and must rely on facts given to them by civil servants.

Her letter was released one day after her government confirmed the existence of a covert operation code-named "Clockwork Orange" to feed lies to journalists reporting from Northern Ireland, where the IRA is fighting to end British rule.

Thatcher and Defence Secretary Tom King both repeated yesterday that the new documents unearthed in the bureaucracy provide no evidence the campaign was extended to discredit politicians.

The prime minister told the House of Commons she stands by her May 1987 statement that there was "no evidence of misuse of information by any member of the security services."

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Bonn rejects concept of German neutrality

Modrow urges unity, but talks will be delayed

EAST BERLIN, Feb. 2, (Agencies): The Bonn government today showed little enthusiasm for an East German plan for reunification, rejecting the concept of German neutrality and saying the issue would be discussed after March elections in East Germany.

In an unexpected statement, East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow had called yesterday for the reunification of Germany under a federal government in Berlin and said both Germanys should first achieve military neutrality.

The West German government and the main opposition party

rejected the suggestion West Germany should quit the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

A government spokesman in Bonn indicated Chancellor Helmut Kohl would not treat the issue as a priority during planned talks with Modrow.

The two German leaders are expected to meet tomorrow at an international economic conference in the Swiss resort of Davos, but the spokesman said they were unlikely to even have enough time to discuss the plan.

He said the proposals would not be a priority either when Modrow travels to Bonn for talks with Kohl, Feb. 13-14.

Kohl said earlier the issue should be discussed after East German elections, March 18 — when the troubled Communist Party, of which Modrow is a member, is widely expected to lose its dominant position in the government, and possibly become an opposition party.

A political analyst in Bonn described the plan as "Modrow's farewell statement."

The spokesman said the Bonn government considered Modrow's proposals as an attempt to slow down the massive exodus to West Germany.

Official West German figures show 58,000 East Germans migrated in January alone — a daily average of almost 2,000.

In East Berlin, the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Germany, Manfred Gerlach, suggested that after both German parliaments had merged, they should elect the current West German President, Richard von Weizsäcker as President of a reunified Germany.

Opinion polls have shown that von Weizsäcker, a member of Kohl's Conservative Party, is one of the most popular personalities in West Germany. He is thought to enjoy similar popularity in East Germany.

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Speaking at a news conference, Gerlach also suggested a referendum on the reunification issue be held in both Germany's Dec. 2, when West Germans go to the polls in general elections.

He said he backed Modrow's plans in principle but said he could not imagine that East Germany would quit the Warsaw Pact this year.

But he said it was possible that the two military alliances would soon lose much of their military character in favour of a more political one.

Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher, who was due to meet senior US administration officials in Washington today rejected the concept of German neutrality but said East Germany could not be co-opted into the Western military alliance either.

The four-point Modrow plan brought the government and Communist Party into line with most political groups on the German question.

It received broad praise in political circles and the media, though a left-wing opponent of unification walked out of a grand coalition being set up to run the country until free elections due on March 18.

The youth daily Junge Welt called the Modrow plan a bombshell that gave the initiative back to a government many had thought on the brink of collapse.

It also gave Modrow political ammunition with which to face Kohl at meetings in Davos this weekend and in Bonn later this month.

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It received broad praise in political circles and the media, though a left-wing opponent of unification walked out of a grand coalition being set up to run the country until free elections due on March 18.

The youth daily Junge Welt called the Modrow plan a bombshell that gave the initiative back to a government many had thought on the brink of collapse.

It also gave Modrow political ammunition with which to face Kohl at meetings in Davos this weekend and in Bonn later this month.

He said the proposals would not be a priority either when Modrow travels to Bonn for talks with Kohl, Feb. 13-14.

Kohl said earlier the issue should be discussed after East German elections, March 18 — when the troubled Communist Party, of which Modrow is a member, is widely expected to lose its dominant position in the government, and possibly become an opposition party.

A political analyst in Bonn described the plan as "Modrow's farewell statement."

The spokesman said the Bonn government considered Modrow's proposals as an attempt to slow down the massive exodus to West Germany.

Official West German figures show 58,000 East Germans migrated in January alone — a daily average of almost 2,000.

In East Berlin, the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Germany, Manfred Gerlach, suggested that after both German parliaments had merged, they should elect the current West German President, Richard von Weizäcker as President of a reunified Germany.

Opinion polls have shown that von Weizäcker, a member of Kohl's Conservative Party, is one of the most popular personalities in West Germany. He is thought to enjoy similar popularity in East Germany.

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Speaking at a news conference, Gerlach also suggested a referendum on the reunification issue be held in both Germany's Dec. 2, when West Germans go to the polls in general elections.

He said he backed Modrow's plans in principle but said he could not imagine that East Germany would quit the Warsaw Pact this year.

But he said it was possible that the two military alliances would soon lose much of their military character in favour of a more political one.

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Life for former Romania leaders

BUCHAREST, Feb. 2, (AP): Four top officials in the government of ousted communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu were convicted today of being accomplices to genocide and sentenced by a military tribunal to life in prison, Radio Bucharest reported.

Three of the four defendants — Emil Bobu, 62, former secretary of the Communist Party Central Committee and the third-ranking member of the Ceausescu leadership, former state council Vice President Manea Manescu, 74, and former Politburo member Ion Dinescu, 62 — stared at the judges, showing no emotion as the verdict was read.

Former Interior Minister Tudor Postelnicu, 59, bowed his head, as he had through much of the five-day trial.

Bobu, Postelnicu and Manescu said they would appeal, but Dinescu told the judge he would not. Manescu, while saying he was guilty, had asked for a lesser sentence than the others, contending he had no part in the crackdown on demonstrators.

The four Politburo members admitted they backed Ceausescu's orders to shoot the demonstrators and did nothing to end his dictatorship. But all denied they gave direct orders to put down the protests.

The military prosecutor, Col. Aurel Cosma, urged the judges to imprison all four for life "on behalf of the thousands of victims, of orphans, children, men, women and brave military men who were killed" in the revolution.

Ceausescu and his wife, Elena, fled Bucharest by helicopter on Dec. 22 as demonstrators neared the Communist Party Central Committee headquarters. They were arrested, convicted of genocide and sentenced to death.

The National Salvation Front, which took power during the revolution, abolished the death penalty, and made life in prison the maximum penalty.

On Thursday the prosecution demanded that the defendants be convicted of a more severe crime — "co-authorship to genocide."

Prosecutor Col. Aurel Cosma said at the end of the fourth day of testimony before a military tribunal that the defendants should be held more directly responsible for the killings.

The government agreed yesterday to share power with the opposition until Romania's first free postwar elections on May 20.

The front will be replaced by a new panel that will include political parties "who are competitive, without regard for their political colour," said Cezar Ionescu, vice president of the outgoing governing council.

The front has been facing demands that it share power or resign.

A front proposal earlier for expansion of the ruling council and establishment of a "mini-parliament" with veto power over the government was dropped.

In the new council of national unity, each of the 29 parties and the front will have three seats for a total of 90 seats, said Radu Campeanu, leader of the National Liberal Party, one of the three main opposition groups.

The 90 other seats will go to non-political members from "all strata of the population from around the country, including people who participated in the revolution," he said.

The new council will convene Feb. 9, he said. Campeanu said a new president will be elected by the new council.

In a final communique, all the participants at the talks urged Romanians to "avoid in the following period manifestations that could lead to tension and violent confrontation."

America

Ted Turner may run for president: Cable Television magnate Ted Turner said on Wednesday he might run for US president, but only if there were an economic depression because only then would voters accept his drastic changes for society.

The 51-year-old billionaire businessman, who doubles as a crusader for peace, population control and saving the environment, told members of the Atlanta Press Club that under current conditions "I don't think I got the energy" to run for president. (Reuters)

Former US officer pleads guilty: A former US military communications specialist pleaded guilty on Thursday to passing classified defence information to the Soviet Union in violation of American espionage laws, the US Justice Department said.

It said Frank Arnold Nesbitt, 44, who formerly served in the air force and the marine corps, entered the guilty plea in federal court in Alexandria, Virginia.

Nesbitt admitted in court that he agreed last November with Soviet agents in Bolivia to travel to Moscow. He flew from Lima to Moscow, where he was met by an agent of the Soviet intelligence agency, the KGB, and spent the next 10 days in a safe house in a debriefing session with Soviet agents. (Reuters)

Returned US soldier arrested: An American soldier who fled to East Germany in 1959 for fear a truck accident would land him in the stockade saw his family for the first time in three decades — then was taken away as an army deserter.

Military and Omaha police were awaiting Arnold Kephart when he landed at Omaha's airport Tuesday. He saw his 86-year-old father and a sister momentarily before being led away on the 30-year-old warrant for desertion in West Germany.

Kephart, 53, originally from Langdon, Missouri, had escaped to the East Bloc with a girlfriend and wasn't able to return to the West until December, after East Germany threw open its borders, said his attorney, James Martin Davis. (AP)

Noriega just another inmate: Manuel Antonio Noriega is "just another inmate" with a window in his cell, library and commissary privileges and the standard cafeteria food at a federal prison in suburban Miami, officials say.

But the deposed Panamanian leader facing federal drug charges cannot mix with other inmates and must wear dark green coveralls to distinguish him as a security risk at the Metropolitan Correctional Centre.

Noriega was held for three weeks in a basement apartment in the downtown federal courthouse before his move to the newly built cell at the fenced-in facility, where he underwent a medical checkup and rules handbook on arrival. (AP)

Appeal against begging ban: The chairman of New York's transportation department said Wednesday that it is appealing a judge's decision that struck down a ban on panhandling in the subways.

Begging "leads an air of disorder" said MTA chairman Robert Kiley.

He said he believes US district judge Leonard Sand was wrong when he decided Friday that begging in public places is a form of free speech protected by the first amendment. (AP)

Man guilty of killing girl: A man was found guilty Thursday for the second time in the rape and bludgeoning death of a 10-year-old girl whose body was found along a prairie path near her home in Illinois.

A jury deliberated nearly 11 hours over three days before finding Rolando Cruz, 26, guilty of killing Jeanne Mansueti. The teenager, who stayed home from school on Feb. 25, 1983, because she was ill, was kidnapped from her home.

The sentencing phase on the trial began Thursday afternoon with prosecutors seeking the death penalty. (UPI)

Power doesn't bring fulfillment: Baker: Secretary of State James A. Baker said Thursday that after nine years close to Washington's power centre, he has found "power doesn't really bring the fulfillment that many think it does."

Baker told a roomful of politicians and diplomats at the annual national prayer breakfast that "inner security and true, real fulfillment comes by faith. It doesn't come by wielding power in a town where power is king."

President George Bush, in brief remarks at the breakfast where Baker was keynote speaker, said "I am convinced that the 1990s will be the decade of the rebirth... of faith and hope." The rapid opening of communist nations in Eastern Europe helped lead to that conviction, he said. (AP)

Gen Sam Phillips dies at 6

Social Affairs and Labour laws reviewed

Drug abuse data being collected

By Hussein Salamah

THE acting undersecretary at Kuwait's Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, Abdulrahman Al Mazrouei, was quoted as saying that the ministry will finalise reviewing the current laws of the ministry.

In an interview with the daily Al-Sayassah, the official said that most of these laws were enacted in 1962 and its provisions were no longer appropriate for the nature of the current era, particularly in the light of Kuwait's comprehensive renaissance in different fields. He clarified that Kuwait for the time being has the necessary national expertise which is capable of perceiving the country's requirements in the legislation field and to bridge any loopholes.

Meanwhile, the acting undersecretary

has praised the ministry's role in different fields, especially as activities were covering all the sections of the community in addition to labour, co-operatives, youth and sports sectors.

Youth

With regard to the ministry's role in the youth sector, Mazrouei said that the ministry had set up a department for youth in 1969.

He added that the ministry's efforts in the youth sector was started by the setting up of Jamal Abdunasser Garden at Rawdah and this has been extended to cover all the north and south areas of the country. These areas witnessed intensified campaigns for afforestation and greenery carried out by youth through different centres in the country.

He recalled that in one day the youth

centres had planted about 40,000 trees. He added that the youth camps were the first official authority to hasten to plant trees. Most of these youth were volunteers and eventually joined the service corps in the army and the police. He confirmed that the work camp organised by the ministry is designed to keep abreast with advanced camps in the world.

Speaking of the Advisory Committee for Youth Affairs chaired by Dr. Salem Al-Tubaihi from the Amiri Diwan, Mazrouei confirmed the importance of such a committee towards conducting theoretical and field studies on youth activities. The activities of the committee had reflected positively on Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti youth.

He added that another sub-committee is being formed which includes members of

the advisory committee and the Social and sports committee, working committee and leisure time investment committee.

Meanwhile, the official said that the advisory committee has accorded top priority to protect youth from the scourge of drugs. He said that the committee is currently concentrating on collecting necessary data on this dangerous phenomenon in order to assess the volume of this problem and in the light of the relevant data an anti-drug plan will be set up.

He added that the participation of youth in the committee has provided new impetus to committee activities.

On the other hand, the official said that the working committee emanated from the advisory committee and was empowered to provide the necessary job opportunities for students during the summer vacation.

Legislation on official information recommended

By Lima Al-Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

LEGISLATION is needed regarding the flow of official information and the definition of confidentiality of such information, according to the recommendations of the Symposium on Official Information.

The symposium also recommended setting up a higher committee to produce and organise official information, establishing a central government body to co-ordinate among different authorities and submitting such legislation to concerned authorities.

On the last day of the symposium on official information and its role in scientific research and decision making, at Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), three sessions were held.

In a lecture presented by the director of computer centre at the Council of Ministers' Secretariat-General, Husam Al-Roumi, the official pointed out the centre's experience on official information.

Roumi also gave a general idea about the main features of the computer system, its link with the data base, and storage system to recall information. He also spoke about the problems that occur when using the system.

The official concluded his lecture with a number of recommendations that focused on establishing a higher authority for dealing, storing and compiling official information.

In another lecture delivered by the director of computer and microfilm department at the Ministry of Planning, Abdul Aziz Al-Askar, he spoke about the department's experience in production and distribution of official information.

Askar disclosed that with long-term development, the department will be a data bank for official information depending on direct contact with other government authorities and to be linked with other similar banks in the GCC countries.

A representative of KISR Dr. Maurice Gings spoke about the role of the public sector to produce a lot of official information compared to those in the GCC countries.

Maurice criticised the lack of unified system among government offices that produce such information and added that some researchers feel frustrated to obtain the needed permissions due to contradictory personal attitudes of senior officials.

The undersecretary of the Ministry of Planning Dr. Abdul Hadi Al-Awadi revealed that necessary steps are underway by the ministry to set up a national centre for information.



Japan Week Inaugurated

Japan Week-1990 was opened yesterday by the Assistant Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs at the Ministry of Information, Ridah Al-Faifi, on behalf of the Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

The latest cars, cameras, and other electronic products were displayed, along with other traditional Japanese kites and toys.

The highlights of the evening were a skit performed by professional Japanese artists and a tea ceremony by Ura Senke.

The patriotic spirit was revealed in the beauty of the kimono, the famous Japanese traditional dress. A large crowd attended the opening and were all praise for the ceremony. Picture shows Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Tsuyoshi Kurokawa and Ridah Al-Faifi (above) watching Japanese kites being painted.

Kuwait Zakat House

Commendable success in making the poor self-reliant

THE acting director general of Kuwait Zakat House Abdul Qader Al-Ajeel has said that the house has witnessed high-level development in its various activities during the year 1989.

Though the house provides assistance to charitable projects abroad, priority is accorded to projects of a charitable nature within the State of Kuwait and alms are distributed according to the Islamic sharia, Ajeel said.

Quoting from statistics, the official said that during 1989, a total of 911 needy families were provided monetary assistance totalling KD601,737. A further amount of KD1,197 was disbursed to 6,156 families on a one-time grant basis. Further, 156 families were the recipients of non-profitable loans valued at KD248,000.262. The house also provided donations valued at KD49,000 to families of prisoners.

Ajeel pointed out that the house has achieved commendable success in training many needy families to be self-reliant by providing them training in various fields. A total of five training courses were imparted to women last year. Financial support was also extended towards the support of 15 Zakat committees of mosques and total donations were valued at KD180,000. The house also gave donations of KD123,000 for a number of local societies and organisations to carry out services for the society.

During last Ramadan, 3,333 needy families benefited from the Zakat Al-Fitr by way of large quantities of rice, meat and milk powder. The house also organised breakfast meals during this period at

49 mosques. A total of 4,520 persons benefited from the breakfast meals on a daily basis at a cost of KD113,000. The house also distributed 648 sacrifices to over 1,174 families during the same period.

Projects

Ajeel praised the charity projects executed by the house to sponsor and maintain orphans which caters to 16,661 orphans sponsored by 12,320 sponsors till the end of 1989. The total amount of money collected for this purpose last year amounted to KD1.73 million. The fund also supports the African and Asian students from the Far East who are studying at Al-Azhar University of Egypt. The house has maintained over 500 of these students in Al-Azhar, Ajeel said.

The house supported at a cost of KD509,000 last year 266 Islamic organisations and societies abroad. The house since its inception has supervised 1,055 charity projects - 338 of which were executed last year at a cost of KD1,046 million.

These projects consist of mosques, schools, Islamic centres, orphanages, shelters and productive projects. The house is also actively involved in undertaking relief works which covered 16 countries like Palestine, Sudan, Somalia, Lebanon, Mauritania, Senegal, Afghanistan and South Yemen. The total costs of these relief works amounted to KD254,000. In this respect, the house also carried out sacrificial projects abroad last year which covered 13 countries and a total of 10,973 sacrifices were distributed in these countries, Ajeel said.

Hepatitis vaccination for school children

THE head of the School Health Department at the Public Health Ministry Dr. Hussein Al-Mumin has said that the general vaccination committee of the department is studying the ability to start vaccinating all school children in the country against hepatitis. He added that the epidemic status of the disease obliges the Health Ministry to seriously think of vaccinating all sensitive categories of people. He expressed fears that the disease might spread among patients and workers in hospitals.

Anti-smoking

Mumin who is also secretary-general of Kuwait Anti-Smoking and Cancer Society blamed physicians in Kuwait for being the biggest barrier to efforts made by the society to fight smoking. He said the society is working to set up a draft law to fight smoking in public places and to prohibit the sale of cigarettes to children. He further revealed that Kuwait imports cigarettes to the value of KD90 million annually and is considered the second largest importer of cigarettes in the world after Greece. He added that the society might proceed against companies which distributed cigarettes with incomplete information on the content of cigarette they sell in Kuwait.

Mumin who also heads the information sub-committee of the National Anti-Aids Committee warned also of the increase of Aids in the country specially among smokers. He added that the society will demand an increase in the custom tax imposed on imports of cigarettes by 100 per cent. This increase was approved by relevant authorities in GCC states but has not been applied, he said.

Yaqout opens charity hospital in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Feb 2, (Kuna): Kuwaiti Ambassador in Pakistan Qasim Omer Al-Yaqout inaugurated a charity hospital built in the city of Jhelum, about 70 miles northeast of here, with Kuwaiti assistance.

Speaking on the occasion he said that by providing funds to a local trust organisation his country had done no favour to the people of the area or any other body.

It was Allah's (God) money which Kuwait shared with the needy people, the ambassador said, adding that it was binding on Muslims possessing money to use part of it for social welfare and social service. Allah, he said, wanted Muslims to help one another in times of need because "All Muslims are brothers," according to the Holy Book.

Yaqout said that HH Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah followed the divine commandment strictly and spent exchequer money also for well-being and welfare of common man, whether in Kuwait or outside Kuwait, especially in the friendly Muslim countries, both Arab and non-Arab.

Prominent among those who attended the inauguration ceremony were the ambassador of Yemen Arab Republic and diplomats from United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, beside veteran politician Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan.

Earlier Maulana Mohammed Madni, chairman of the Al-Asra Trust Jhelum, in his speech thanked Kuwait for the valuable assistance in the establishment of the hospital. Madni said it was befitting that Kuwait had helped the people of Jhelum during the tenure of HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al-Sabah as chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

Situated in the Bhatial suburb of Jhelum city on the national highway, the hospital will for the present serve as an outdoor hospital but will be converted into a full-fledged hospital.

New amendments to traffic law soon

No expansion in istimara categories

THE director of the traffic department at the Capital Governorate Col. Musaed Al-Qattan has denied that there is only intention to further expand categories that are allowed to get learners driving licences (istimara).

He added that the traffic department at the Capital Governorate issued 10,257 new driving licences (all categories) during 1989. It also issued 7,035 istimaras and 2,138 licences for pickups. It also licensed 22,143 new vehicles cancelled licences of 14,685 vehicles and renewed licences of 79,116 vehicles. It also fined 130,269 people for traffic violations last year. The Capital Governorate witnesses a large number of road accidents, he said.

Col. Qattan stressed that General Traffic Administration - GTA - will announce new amendments on the present traffic law shortly. These amendments will focus on traffic violations. He added that penalties will be increased whether they are fines or imprisonment. He added that strict penalties will be assumed against reckless and drivers without a licence or car insurance. He added that many of expatriates were deported through the Capital Traffic Department as a result of repeating a number of dangerous traffic violations intentionally

like passing the red signal, and carrying passengers in pickups (vanettes). He added that a new phenomena of carrying passengers in private cars for money has begun appearing in Kuwait which is considered a violation. He added that present penalties against violators are not sufficiently harsh.

Inspections

Qattan also denied that procedures of car technical inspection at the GTA are difficult and complicated. He added that this work will not be transferred to private workshops and garages at the present time but will remain one of the responsibilities of the GTA. He added that most taxi drivers do not abide by charters and regulations and violate them. They also do not abide by special car parks allocated to them. Drivers of vanettes are forbidden to carry passengers. They also do not abide by traffic regulations and so they are strictly controlled. Plate numbers of these vanettes and driving licences of their owners are confiscated.

In case of repetition the driver is imprisoned, he said. Qattan added that driving schools that are expected to be opened next August will be supervised by the GTA. The driving test will continue being held at the traffic departments. He added that he

has rejected a proposal to issue driving licences to people under 18 years old. He criticised the public for not co-operating with the GTA in applying and abiding by traffic regulations.

Mail notifications

Col. Qattan pointed out that the GTA began an experiment for three months to notify drivers to visit traffic departments to fulfil their formalities like renewing their car books, driving licences or other formalities by mail. 20,000 random samples of car owners were notified to visit the traffic departments for this purpose. He praised the experiment saying that drivers who received mail notifications rushed to the department immediately.

He denied that influence (wasta) is effective in passing the driving tests. There are many people who have succeeded in their first effort which means that claims that nobody succeeds in the first test are baseless, Qattan said. He added that his department has begun using computers in different services. Appointments for driving tests will be made by computer very soon. He also denied any intention to change the system of theoretical traffic tests. The driving licence for residents and non-Kuwaitis who have regular residence are valid for ten years, he said.

Fana statement

Coverage of national causes to be upgraded

KUWAIT, Feb 2, (Kuna): The general secretariat of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (Fana) yesterday stressed that members should commit themselves to Arab causes and consecrate their efforts in the interest of the nation's national issues.

The conferees, in conclusion of their extraordinary meeting here today, hailed the Palestinian uprising as a historical response to the Israeli occupation and stressed the need to intensify coverage of its news and events.

The meeting was presided over by Fana President Barges Hmoud Al-Barghas who is also Board Chairman and Director-General of Kuwait News Agency (Kuna).

Fana members, in a press release made available to Kuna, stressed that Jewish immigration of the occupied Arab territories of Palestine from the Soviet Union should be confronted both by political and media means to neutralise such a dangerous plot.

The conferees called on Arab organisations and institutions to face these waves "that not only threaten the security of the Arab nation but threaten the peace in the region and the entire world."

Attending the meeting were director-generals of the Iraqi News Agency (INA) Adnan Al-Ajabouri, the Jamahiriya News Agency (Jana) Ramadnan Al-Sayyed, the Jordanian News Agency (Petra) Ali Al-Safdi, and deputy director-general of the Syrian News Agency (Sana) Gassim Yaghi and Fana secretary-general Dr. Farid Aydar.

The conferees also hailed the initiative of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein last December as a sincere Iraqi desire to reach comprehensive and lasting peace between Iraq and Iran.

In this respect Fana members called on Iran to respond to this initiative which contributes to providing suitable atmosphere for establishing peace. For his part, the Syrian representative in the meeting expressed reservations over the initiative.

The general secretariat of the federation also stressed in its statement on the need for enhancement of Arab solidarity at all levels.

In respect of Lebanon, the Arab officials called for expediting implementation of resolutions reached during the extraordinary Arab summit of Casablanca.

The conferees strongly condemned the American renewal of economic sanctions on Libya which manifested the American hostility against Libya and the Arab nation.

According to the recommendations, which were also made available to Kuna, the conferees stressed that Fana members should be represented by the director-general in person or an authorised official in meetings of its general assembly.

The federation asked Arab ministers of information whose countries did not pay their due subscriptions to immediately settle their obligation.

The Arab officials also recommended that member agencies assigned by the federation to undertake any activities on behalf of Fana should deduct the expenses from its share in the federation's budget.

GCC states committed to peace, says Nahyan

SHEIKH Ramadan Ben Zayed Al-Nahyan, the UAE foreign affairs undersecretary said that at last GCC summit held in Muscat has succeeded in achieving a number of positive steps to address the ambitions of the people of the area.

In a statement to the Al-Quds newspaper issued in London, the official said that the summit stressed on the base of relations of the GCC states with other countries. The GCC states are permanently committed to establishing peace between Iran and Iraq, Nahyan said.

Elucidating, he said that Muscat's summit supported efforts made by the UN Secretary General to apply the Security Council's Resolution No 598 that calls for ending the state of war between Iran and Iraq and to reach a fair and comprehensive settlement between the two neighbouring countries which establishes peace and stability in the entire region.

He also praised the results of the Arab-European dialogue that was held in Paris recently. The highlight of the conference was the equal participation of Palestine representatives with Arab and European counterparts.

Nahyan described the stand of the US government and some European countries that rejects the Palestinian state as illogical. He said: "these countries are the same which issued and supported the UN resolution of the partition of Palestine which gave the Jews a state in Palestine at the expense of the Palestinians."

Farwaniya residents want area problems redressed

Overcrowding at clinic bemoaned

FARWANIYA is considered one of the highly populated residential areas in Kuwait which makes it essential to establish different service projects like co-operative societies, clinics, new roads, schools, police stations and modern markets.

A local daily visited Farwaniya in order to shed light on residents' opinions and suggestions aimed at urging officials to address the area's shortcomings.

Nader Karam, said that unfortunately cleaning trucks don't comply with the times of garbage removal. Most of Farwaniya area have stacks of garbage.

He stressed that despite the fact that the area is highly populated, organisation is lacking. Farwaniya police station is not fully oriented and does not provide residents with services required. Many incidents have been reported related to disturbances, but officials have yet to take any action. He pointed out that some of the policemen in Farwaniya have also participated in causing much disturbance to residents, particularly in the issue of the harassment of

girls. He added that there have been an increase in the number of car thefts in Farwaniya recently.

Clinic

With respect to Farwaniya Co-operative Society, Karam stated that prices are not fixed and fluctuate regularly. He added that the Farwaniya clinic has only one doctor on duty despite the increase in the number of patients. Doctors at the clinic, are under pressure and therefore are liable to err in diagnosing patients, he indicated.

Hamad Shaddad praised the level of cleanliness in Farwaniya indicating that such results reflect the concerns put forward by Kuwait Municipality and officials. He stated that Farwaniya Co-operative Society enjoys many services and offers consumers good prices. He said that police officers are fully oriented towards preserving security and safety at the area. Therefore he considered Farwaniya to be one of the beautiful areas in Kuwait which shows the government attention towards providing residents with comfort and security.

Moemen Al-Muslem stated

that he is currently residing in plot number one in Farwaniya and praised the level of cleanliness. He indicated that Farwaniya Co-operative Society lacks vehicles parking lots which cause many traffic accidents. He stressed that Farwaniya Area faces many problems which are caused by young reckless drivers, on the other hand, he stressed that Farwaniya Police Station exerts efforts to eradicate problems by providing more security patrols.

Youth centres

Moemen suggested establishing of an entertainment centre for youth like those in Deyya and Qadisiya. He said that the centre will benefit youth.

He stated that service level provided by Farwaniya clinic are not fully organised and sometimes it is hard to find particular medicine at the clinic pharmacy.

He stressed that Farwaniya area is not organised, a visitor would easily see old buildings and new buildings side by side. He pointed out that currently works have been carried out to establish a public garden for Far-

waniya residents near the old market area.

Barrak Al-Azzami talked about a problem which residents of Farwaniya suffer from namely the high number of non-Kuwaiti groups. He said that the huge population of non-Kuwaitis in Farwaniya makes citizens residing within feel as if they are strangers. He stated that the high population of non-Kuwaiti families residing in the area caused jams at the Farwaniya clinic and therefore the clinic could not provide citizens with full medical services. He suggested that fees should be imposed on non-Kuwaitis availing of medical services.

Bassam Tawfeeq Mohammed stated that most Farwaniya residents complain of the regular overflow of sewage which causes bad odour beside traffic problems.

Bassam proposed the transfer of the current gasoline station location to make it more adequate for residents. He pointed out that some areas in Farwaniya have narrow streets which cause traffic jams during



Lipton gold rush final draw

THE third and final draw on Lipton "Gold Rush" was conducted at M/S Mohamed Abdulrahman Al-Bahar Offices in Shuwaikh. The draw took place under the supervision of Ministry of Commerce, represented by

Ahmed Al-Zamami and Ministry of Interior represented by Lt. Jafar Mallallah. The lucky winner of the first prize of half kilo pure gold was Ibtisam Abdel Hameed Al-Kayed. Other prizes announced were: 2 prizes of 100g gold, 6 prizes of 50g gold and 10 prizes of Noritake tea sets.

This was the third and final draw of the extremely successful Lipton "Gold Rush" promotion. In all 3 kilos of pure gold and 30 Noritake tea sets were won by the lucky winners. The picture above shows: (right to left) Ahmed Al-Zamami representing Ministry of Commerce, Jafar Mallallah representing Ministry of Interior and C. Mustapha Sahni of Lipton Tea Co.

هنا نحن نعمل

Pharmaceutical services conference Feb 12

Role of pharmacists to be reviewed

KUWAIT'S Pharmaceutical Society will hold Kuwait's Third Conference for Pharmaceutical Sciences from Feb 12-14, 1990 which will focus on local issues and the proceedings will be open to the public and guests to put forth their opinions on related topics.

On this subject, a local daily interviewed Dr. Saley Al Saffouri, director of the medicine factory which is attached to the Ministry of Public Health.

He said that medical security is similar to food security and takes the same importance. He stressed that production services should be linked efficiently with distribu-

tion avenues and protective treatments to achieve optimum value of these factories.

At least 70 per cent of local medicine requirements should be manufactured in Kuwait, Saffouri said and commented that the medicine factory was established in 1966 and since then has been proceeding in the right direction to achieve self sufficiency in this field.

With respect to the new issues which will be discussed at the conference, he added that it will review the role played by pharmacists in medical services. Such developments will be directed towards improving pharmacy studies in addition to contin-

uous training at the ministry.

On the other hand, Dr. Abdullah Ali Al Khar, from the Medicine College at the University of Kuwait and head of the organising committee for the conference said that the conference aims at providing participants with the latest and most important discoveries in the field of pharmaceutical services in Kuwait.

It will also review the role of pharmacists in that direction. The conference will look at several scientific reports presented by the Pharmaceutical College at the university, the Islamic Centre for Medical Sciences, and the Kuwaiti Company for

Pharmaceutical Industries. He pointed out that the committee has recently received several reports and projects conducted by pharmacists.

Khar stated that a number of Pharmacy College deans in Arab states and a number of pharmacists from the Arab world will participate in the conference. He indicated that nearly 250 to 300 pharmacists from Kuwait will take part in the conference. Kuwait has prepared 36 out of the 80 research papers to be presented at the conference.

Dr. Khar called for Arab integration in the field of pharmaceutical industries.

Providing clear water top priority: Rqobah

Shatt Al Arab project tender end 1990

MINISTER of Electricity and Water, Dr. Hmoud Al Rqobah has indicated that the ministry will execute a number of plans to develop the ministry's administrative and technical departments. He added that a new system for immediate collection of fees and other bills will be approved by the ministry to streamline these services. He said that one of the ministry's future ambitions is to provide all consumers with clear water, in addition to implementing a number of outside projects for the interest of citizens in Kuwait.

In an interview, Dr. Rqobah pointed out that the ministry has prepared plans for the training of Kuwaiti man power. The plans also cover the implementation of comprehensive materials management system and interface with financial and technical systems, in addition to completing the costing system and preparing technical programmes to upgrade ministry administrative and technical departments.

With respect to the immediate bills collection system which was recently approved by the ministry, Rqobah said that the system aims at developing the part connected with the bills payments system measurements specially those related to average consumption. Necessary measures were made to enable the ministry and its offices at different areas to obtain special data for consumer payments at accredited local banks or ministry offices. He stressed that the new system will save time and effort and is considered to be a root solution for some pre-existing problems.

Regarding measures taken by the ministry with respect to avoiding any repetitions of power disconnection and failure, the minister said it is only human nature to commit mistakes stress-

ing that the ministry is working hard to avoid repeating the same problems.

On solving the problem of red water, he indicated that the ministry conducted several studies, to prevent this problem. Implementing the recommendations has been put into effect by operating the first treatment unit at Shuwaikh station which will feed areas located between the First and Third Ring Roads in addition to Kuwait City. The minister pointed out that results obtained from the unit have been commendable.

Answering on the issue of the ministry continuing to depend on water tankers to transfer water in several areas around Kuwait, he stated that the ministry has completed a number of projects in connecting water networks to most areas. He added that applying this method depends totally on the landlords of residential buildings.

The ministry in March 1989 signed the Baghdad meeting minutes which facilitates the implementation of bringing water from Shatt Al Arab project, Rqobah said. He added that the tender of the project will be put forward for contractors at the end of this year. He stressed that water which will be brought from Shatt Al Arab will only be for agricultural use, adding that household water will be drawn from the Euphrates.

On the other hand, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Electricity and Water, Abdullah Mohammed Al Mnyas announced that special treatment unit is currently operating at Shuwaikh station to overcome the problem of red water. He added that the ministry has signed two contracts for the treatment of water produced at Doha and Zour stations. He stressed that the problem of red water will end in

1992 with the operation of these two projects.

Mnyas pointed out that water produced from sea water is considered to be the main source of fresh water in Kuwait after adding to its specific rates of brackish water in order for it to gain taste and to raise its salt contents which is important for the human body. He added that the ministry has conducted several studies to avoid the problem of rust.

Computerisation

Meanwhile, Assistant Undersecretary for Consumers Affairs at the Ministry of Electricity and Water, Ali Al Fneel announced that the ministry has begun utilising a large number of computers at several control areas including Dasma, Ardiya, Khaitan, Salmiya and Fahahel. He stressed that work at some other control divisions will start during the coming few days adding that all control divisions will be provided with the integrated computer system terminals beginning next March.

In a statement made to Al Seyassa, he stated that these computer terminals aim at upgrading the level of services at control divisions by using direct data feed and output, in addition to enhancing the performance of workers.

He pointed out that the total cost of these terminals is estimated at KD28,000 adding that co-operation between the ministry and the Ministry of Communication and the Ministry of Planning is under way to provide these computer terminals at all control divisions. He pointed out that the ministry will organise special training courses for nationals at the ministry to get them oriented and ready to operate these terminals. The courses will last for 7 days, he added.

Power failures

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3 Saudis killed in Bangkok

(Continued from Page 1)

government "is awaiting information from the Thai government so as to take the necessary measures."

There have been at least a dozen violent attacks on Saudi diplomats in various parts of the world in the past four years.

But in Bangkok police said although Thursday's shootings took place close to the residence of the Iranian charge d'affaires there was no indication of a link to Iran. The charge was away in Iran at the time.

Thai police mounted a manhunt for the two gunmen by guarding all exits from the country, senior Thai officials said.

"We are trying to block all exit ways which the gunmen may use to leave for abroad because we believe one of them is an Arab," said Interior Minister Banham Silpa-Archa.

He said police were sparing no efforts to find the killers.

Police were set to distribute sketches of the two gunmen, believed to be one Arabian and one Thai, based on descriptions by witnesses. But there were few other clues for police to go on.

"There were no warnings or intimidation before the murders took place," said Lt. Col Pibul Bangtamai, police chief in the area where the killings took place.

Banham said the murders may be related to the killing in January last year of Saudi Third Secretary Abdullah Al Malik. Police have concluded that murder was sparked by a conflict between the embassy official and Thai labour brokers over visas for Thai workers.

Police arrested a professional gunman last June in connection with the killing, but the suspect has denied any involvement.

The 6.35mm pistol used in the murder of Al Malik was the same type as used in Thursday's murders.

Banham said police were also investigating the possibility that the killing may be linked to an international conflict, but he did not elaborate.

Police sources said they suspected that political conflicts between Saudi Arabia and Iran could be the cause of the shooting.

Pibul said a number of local policemen and special branch forces have been sent to ensure the safety of Saudi diplomats' families and their embassy in Bangkok.

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No room for talks on water: Turkey

(Continued from Page 1)

to "find a solution to the transboundary water courses in the region," he said.

He claims that the Turkish proposals were "rejected" by both Syria and Iraq.

"The fact that Turkey has tabled this proposal is answer enough to unjustified claims that Turkey is unwilling to solve this question," he said.

He claims that Turkey is not cutting off the waters of Euphrates and has released more water to Syria during the 81 days build-up to the closure period so that "no adverse effects are possible in Syria and Iraq."

Turkish sources said the issue has been blown out of proportion by the media.

Syrian and Iraqi complaints about Turkey's management of the waters back to the building of the first dam on the Euphrates, the Keban Dam. The construction of the Karakaya Dam also met with similar opposition. The construction of the Ataturk Dam began in 1983 and is considered to be among the biggest rock filled dams of the world.

Kuwait has appealed to Turkey on behalf of Iraq, asking for a solution to the Euphrates waters problem straining relations between Turkey and its two Arab neighbours, a Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Ankara.

Spokesman Murat Sungar said Kuwait's foreign minister had sent a letter Tuesday to his Turkish counterpart Mesut Yilmaz on the matter, but he did not divulge its contents. "It repeats the Iraqi views on the matter and it has been noted by our side," Sungar told reporters at his weekly briefing.

"Turkey has complied with the principle of good neighbourly relations and there has been no damage," Sungar asserted.

Turkey, to make up for the shortfall, released extra water before the cut-off, he said.

"Any intentions or initiatives to bring pressure on Turkey in this matter will not serve to strengthen a basis of understanding," Sungar said.

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Contribute to festivities: Barges

29th National Day celebrations

KUWAIT, Feb 2. (Kuna): Kuwait Governor Abdul Latif Mohammed Al Barges has called on citizens to participate and contribute towards celebrations of the country's 29th National Day.

He advocated, in this regard, continuing decoration of facades of buildings and shops in addition to roundabouts and squares in co-ordination with the Higher Organising Committee for celebrating the National Day which falls on February 25.

Barges, in an interview with Kuna, said that popular participation in national occasions was the basis for participation in development and building of Kuwait and under the umbrella of "fraternal consultation and understanding."

The governor noted that this year's celebration of Kuwait's independence anniversary falls at the start of the nineties which

improving the environment.

The council is currently studying numerous projects tabled by citizens to HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince, Barges said, pointing out that several of those had already been implemented.

The governor hailed, in this respect, the co-operation of ministers of services who expressed willingness to co-operate with the governorate in executing citizens' wishes.

Asked whether a special budget was allocated for the governorate's projects, Barges underlined that the ministers of services have decided that projects related to public utilities would be carried out from their own budgets.

He noted that the cabinet had earmarked half a million Kuwaiti dinars for implementing simple projects in each governorate until the end of the current fiscal year.

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Action Line

I AM a housemaid and have been working with a very good Kuwaiti employer for the last five years. My contract with them will end in 1994. My employers are going on a transfer of residence to another country, and there is no time for me to get another sponsor. They are also afraid that I may find an employer who is not good to me. So, they advised me to visit my children first. What is the proper arrangement I must make before I leave Kuwait? I want to come back. Kindly explain what I should do. I'd like to thank you in advance.

P.A.Q.C.

IF your employer has agreed to your proceeding on leave, you can go on holiday. If your employers are leaving, it would be advisable to find a new sponsor. Before your present employer leaves the country, he must give you a release paper, mentioning the name of the new sponsor. This is necessary so that the authorities have knowledge about the person you would be working for. If this can't be done, then you must cancel your present visa and re-enter on a fresh work permit. It would be better if you look around for a new sponsor so that your present employer can give you a release paper. If this can be arranged, then you can complete the transfer of residence formalities, go on vacation (with your new sponsor's permission) and return to the country.

MY son, who is eight years old, is holding a separate passport. His residence is valid up to August 1991. Because of his education, he cannot travel every six months. Is the six months law application to minors. Kindly clarify.

K.P. Nair

THE six month rule applies to everyone, (regardless of age), holding a valid residence permit in Kuwait. And this rule must be followed. As your son is studying in India, you can obtain permission for him to stay outside the country for more than six months. This can be done by applying to the immigration authorities, submitting documentary evidence from his school. In most cases, a permission is given to students.

In case the visa expires, it would be advisable to bring the child on a visit visa and then complete the residence formalities after his arrival. A Kuwaiti embassy cannot renew the residence. This has to be done by the immigration department in Kuwait.

I AM on a visa No. 20. My employer has processed a fresh visa, No. 18, for me. Is it necessary for me to return to my country of origin and come back? Or can I visit a nearby Gulf country to enter on the new visa? Is there any way to transfer my visa from No. 20 to No. 18 without leaving Kuwait? I am still on the sponsorship of the same employer.

C.M.A.

THE rules do not permit the transfer of residence from No. 20 to No. 18. This is not allowed unless the ministry of social affairs and labour agrees.

If your employer has obtained a fresh visa No. 18 for you, it is necessary for you to go back to your country to complete the formalities like endorsement from the embassy, medical tests etc. It is essential to complete these formalities. In case, there is no such facility in your country, then you can seek the advice of your embassy in Kuwait so that they can tell you what course of action has to be taken.

I AM a Filipino national. I hold a higher secondary certificate. Presently, I am on visa No. 20, working with the same employer. I want my employer to release me so that I can make a fresh NOC. My employer is willing to give me a release, but my problem is that I can't find a suitable job. I can't work in a company until I have a visa No. 18? What shall I do? Please make release and no-objection papers for me. I don't want to go back to the Philippines. I want to work here on a visa No. 18. Please help me.

L.P.

THE release papers can only be given by an employer, in this case your employer. No one else can do that. The No-Objection Certificate is issued by the immigration authority, upon the request of an employer.

It would be advisable to look around for a suitable job, and find a sponsor who is willing to get you a work permit, No. 18 visa. If this can be done, then you can work on visa No. 18. I would also like to tell you that the law does not permit the transfer of residence from No. 20 to No. 18. For this, a person has to cancel the visa No. 20, return to his/her country, and re-enter on the fresh work permit.

T.H. Sammel

PLEASE inform me whether a family visa for an Indian wife can be endorsed at the airport in Kuwait. My wife will be joining me soon. I shall be grateful if a prompt reply is given so that I can make arrangements accordingly.

If you have already obtained a family visa for your wife, send a copy of the document to the airline for reservations etc. The visa can be submitted at the airport.

If you have a problem drop in a line to Action Line, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait or Fax your questions to us on Tel: 4847495.

Joint Arab women's centre to be set up

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 2. (Kuna): Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, president of Agfund discussed here last night joint efforts for the establishment of a regional Arab centre for research and training on women, family and development.

The centre will be financed jointly by Agfund, the Arab Gulf Programme for UN Development Organisations, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

"We think in Agfund that we should concentrate now on women. We can no longer ignore women in the Arab world and no development can be done without women," Prince Talal told a news conference.

He said the west is not to be blamed for having a "very bad image" about our women.

"I do not want to put the blame on them. We have to put the blame on ourselves. So we have to work very hard to assist our women in the Arab world," he said.

Unique

He said this project (centre), unique in its kind, will start small but "it is a hope for our women to be trained as leaders. We need women leaders," the prince said.

It is still unknown where the centre will be located. Jordan, Tunisia, Egypt, Bahrain and the Emirates are possibilities but it all depends on who will provide more facilities, he said.

The project is estimated to cost approximately US\$3 million over four years.

The final phases of the project were discussed earlier in the day by Prince Talal and heads of the co-founders.



Bolshoi in Kuwait

Stars of the Soviet Ballet pictured during rehearsals yesterday at the Al Andalus Cinema. Some of the best known performers from Russian ballet companies are taking part in the two-day show, which opened last night. There will be another performance at a later time of 8 pm tonight at Andalus Cinema.

Crime file

Kuwaiti shot by wife, still in coma at hospital

A KUWAITI national was shot by his wife recently, a local daily reported.

The victim is currently lying in a coma at the Al Razi Hospital and according to sources, the victim could not be interrogated by the police due to complete paralysis as a result of the bullet resting in his head.

However, the sources said that there had been continual problems between the wife and the husband and the wife who holds a licensed pistol is alleged to have shot the victim when he was asleep.

Investigations are in progress, though no details have been released.

2 years, deportation for adultery

A MAN and a maid servant have been sentenced to two years in jail on charges of attempted adultery, a local daily reported.

The two were reported to have been caught red handed at the residence of the maid's employers. The court ordered that the maid be deported after her completion of her sentence.

2 years, deportation for assault

THE court sentenced a man to two years imprisonment and ordered his deportation for harassing and sexually assaulting a female.

The court was told that the convict was working as a car washer on the lady's car for over four years and because the lady talked to him, mistakenly believed she was in love with him.

On the day of the incident, he was reported to have tried to kiss the lady who resented this act and lodged a police complaint.

Fine for forging licence

THE Criminal Court sentenced a man to two and half years imprisonment with an option to pay KD200 as a fine for suspending the licence of the world in the past four years.

The accused who is the manager of a video film distributing and printing company was charged with forging a licence granted him by the Ministry of Information for the distribution of five video films.

4 years for impersonation

THE Criminal Court sentenced to four years in jail a man for stealing a car and driving licence of a citizen identified as Abbas and using the car to transport goods to Iraq through a forged manifest.

Sentencing refrained

THE court refrained from passing sentence on a youth accused of sexually assaulting a high school girl. Along with the youth, six other youths accused of the same offence with the girl were released for lack of evidence.

The court was told that on the day of the incident, the girl had some family problems and left her school early in the morning and was picked up by the two men in a car at Ebn Khalid Street and taken for a ride at her request and dropped at Rehab Complex at Tunis Street.

After leaving the complex, she met another man who took her to a flat in Salmiya and forcibly kissed her on the cheek. After leaving him she was picked up by two other men in a gold coloured car who took her to Salmiya and showed her some x-rated movies and then raped her.

Five-day week in Bahrain

Education delegation returns from Jordan

MANAMA, Feb 2. (AP): The island state of Bahrain, a major offshore banking centre, yesterday switched to a five-day official work week ordered by Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa as of Feb 1.

Working hours in government ministries and departments were set as 7 am (0400 GMT) to 2:15 pm (1115 GMT) Saturday through Wednesday, with a quarter of an hour less on Thursdays.

Thursday and Friday is the Muslim weekend.

Bahrain is a major banking centre for the oil-rich Gulf region, with some 60 offshore banking units aside from national and Islamic banks.

Education delegation returns from Jordan

KUWAIT, Feb 2. (Kuna): A high-level education delegation returned here last night concluding a five-day visit to Jordan during which the delegation toured a number of academic institutions.

The delegation headed by assistant undersecretary at the education ministry Abdullah Al Lughman had left for Jordan last week in response to an official invitation from the Jordanian Education Ministry.

Lughman told Kuna before his departure that the delegation had talks with the Jordanian education minister and with senior Jordanian officials on educational issues.

He pointed out that Jordan and Kuwait are linked with a cultural and co-operation agreement which stipulates that both countries exchange visits.

Meanwhile the assistant undersecretary of the Ministry of Education for private education, Dr. Yacoub Al Sharrah said that burdens on schools and educational departments increase correspondingly to the number of students.

Speaking at a seminar on school administration held at the English School, Sharrah said that education in Kuwait is following a system of centralisation of planning and decentralisation in implementation.

The official said that there are some measures that should be taken into consideration in school administration such as limiting responsibilities within schools and having clear plans and programmes. Human relations within schools should be upgraded and this should be taken a step further by opening schools to society by developing close relations with families.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THERE is no greater folly in the world than for a man to despair — Miguel Cervantes, Spanish writer (1547-1616).

Pursuing a dream

Aoun stops at nothing

BEIRUT, (Reuters): Michel Aoun has shown three times in the past year that whatever the risks, whatever the casualties, he will stop at nothing to achieve his dream for Lebanon.

Many Christians see the stocky army general as a Quixotic figure, an honest soldier, a man of his word, operating in the shark's pool of Lebanese politics.

To his opponents however, Aoun is the biggest shark in the pool, a naive soldier whose blunt methods have brought nothing but bloodshed.

He has battled Muslim militias, the Syrian Army and twice sought to destroy his Christian rival Samir Geagea, who opposes the general's methods for restoring Lebanon's sovereignty and ridding the country of Syrians and other foreign influences.

Aoun, 54, sparked the worst inter-Christian fighting in 14 years of civil war with a demand that Geagea's 10,000-strong Lebanese Forces (LF) militia surrender its weapons and disband.

Aoun was angered because the LF provided only half-hearted military backing during his six-month artillery battle — the general called it a "war of liberation" — against Syrian and Muslim foes last year.

The dispute worsened when Geagea refused to go along with Aoun's rejection of an Arab-brokered peace plan.

Money has been the other catalyst for the fighting. Last February, when Christian fighting cost 60 lives, and this week Aoun was attempting to end the LF's taxation of the Christians.

Strapped for cash since Syrian-backed President Elias Hrawi stopped the Central Bank paying his army units, Aoun turned to the LF's sophisticated revenue collecting.

Aoun needs the money to pay his men.

"We are sorry for what is happening but there is no way back," the gregarious general said at his shell-shattered headquarters at Baabda in the pine-clad hills overlooking east Beirut.

Aoun, who always appears in public in crumpled, ill-fitting military fatigues and is reputed to sleep with a pistol under his pillow, sees his army as the last untainted champion of the country's sovereignty.

Aoun refuses to accept Hrawi's authority and order stripping him of the command of Lebanon's Armed Forces.

He believes it is the duty of the people to back his army.

With typical boldness, he put his popularity to the test last year by calling on Christians to march on his headquarters.

The crowds came in their tens of thousands.

It is too early to see whether his undoubted popularity in east Beirut has survived the latest bloodletting which distressed many Christians.

Equally important for Aoun's survival, he has held the respect of his army units. In a country where allegiances can be fickle, the general's 15,000 men, who include 3,000 Muslims, have remained highly motivated and loyal, military experts say.

Aoun received his first taste of political power when outgoing president Amin Gemayel named him as interim leader in September 1988 after Parliament failed to elect a successor for the president.

His crusade against Syria and its 33,000 troops in Lebanon last March plunged the country into bitter fighting which killed more than 850 people.

Known for his impatience and quick temper, Aoun was born into a modest middle-class family. Even as a child he wanted to be a soldier.

An artillery officer, he was appointed army commander in 1984, the youngest man to hold the post. He has studied in France, Britain and the United States.

Married with three daughters, he enjoys reading — especially biographies of soldiers-turned-statesmen.

"If I see even my brother in a soldier's uniform and carrying a machine-gun, I will shoot him," said Michel, a fighter with the Lebanese Forces militia.

"They (the army) have been persecuting us for more than a year and now they want to eliminate us and have all the enclave for themselves... they must be dreaming."

Killing

The nightmare of brother killing brother seemed far from mere rhetoric this week as a war-within-a-war exploded in east Beirut and the strip of Christian heartland which curves north and east of it.

Home to some 900,000 Christians, the enclave has been holding out against the Lebanese presidency re-established with international recognition last year.

But the Christians' two main armed forces — the army of General Michel Aoun and the Lebanese Forces militia of Samir Geagea turned savagely on each other after Aoun vowed to disarm the LF.

Many Christian families have sons serving in both the 10,000-strong LF and Aoun's 15,000-man army.

East Beirut was totally crippled on Thursday with no power, water or working telephones. Residents huddled in underground shelters. Many ran short of food. Hundreds of children stayed trapped in their schools.

Adding to the risk for civilians, the combatants set up barricaded machine-gun posts atop high-rise buildings. Tanks deployed in residential areas.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1591 — Formation of the German Protestant League of Torgau under Christian I of Saxony, John Casimir of the Palatinate, and Christian of Anhalt.

1660 — General George Monck leads his army into London.

1830 — Greece is declared independent under protection of France, Russia and Britain at London conference.

1831 — Revolutionary outbreaks in Modena, Parma and Papal States, influenced by French Revolution.

1848 — Britain's Sir Harry Smith annexes country between Orange and Vaal rivers in South Africa.

1894 — The Dirigo, first steel sailing ship, is launched at Bath, Maine, in United States.

1913 — Bulgarians resume war with Turkey.

1943 — British bombers pound German city of Hamburg in World War II.

1945 — US forces recapture Manila in Philippines from Japanese in World War II.

1964 — China challenges leadership of Soviet Union in communist world.

1966 — Unmanned Soviet spaceship makes soft landing on moon and begins sending signals back to earth.

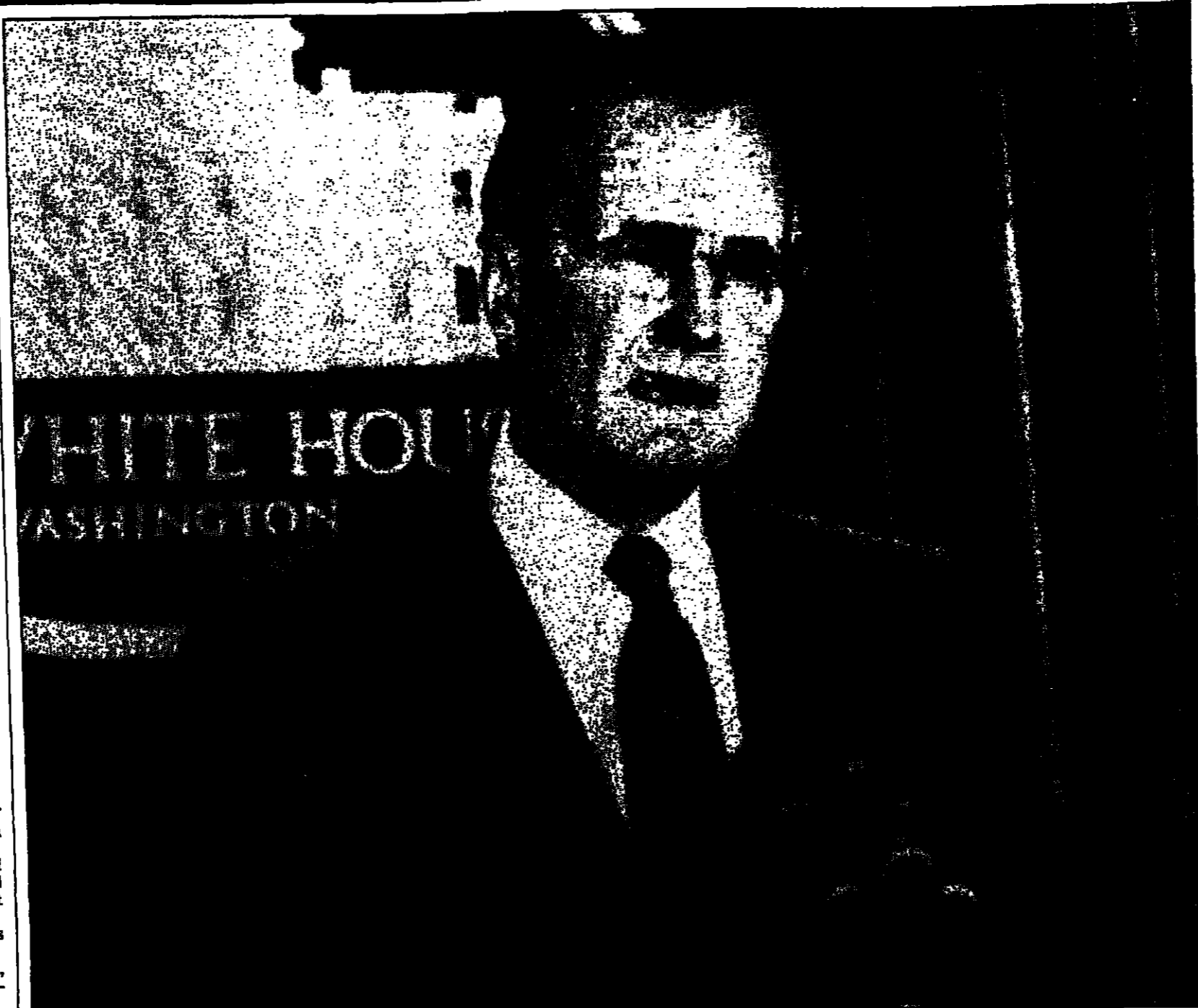
1969 — Dr Eduardo Mondlane, president of Mozambique National Liberation Front, is assassinated by time bomb in Tanzania.

1973 — Fighting in Vietnam comes to virtual halt after formal ceasefire goes into effect.

1977 — General Tafari Banti, Ethiopia's chief of state, is killed in gun battle that breaks out around Addis Ababa headquarters of nation's feuding military leaders.

1984 — Infertile woman in California (USA) hospital becomes what is believed to be world's first person to give birth to baby from donated embryo.

1989 — A top military commander seizes power in coup following night of fighting in Paraguay.



Bush: new proposal

Bush proposal deemed helpful

Troop reduction to aid Euro-peace

LONDON, (Reuters): US President George Bush's new proposal for radical troop cuts in Europe should help East and West in their rush for a force reduction treaty before fresh political changes overtake them, Western analysts said.

Negotiators at the conventional forces in Europe (CFE) talks in Vienna have been saying they hope to have a pact ready by later this year. But they are still apart on several issues, including permitted numbers on NATO and Warsaw Pact servicemen.

Bush's proposals in his State of the Union address on Wednesday to lower the ceilings for US and Soviet forces in Europe could ease Moscow's position and make the deadline easier to achieve, experts said.

This would aid European stability in a fast-moving situation where the front-line states of East and West Germany appear headed for some kind of reunification and ethnic turmoil in the Soviet Union has worried some Western leaders, they said.

"If we reduce (forces) to timetable, it would be to the benefit of whatever other changes take place in Europe," a Western diplomat said.

Bush proposed slashing the previous Nato offer — limiting US troops in Western Europe to 275,000 (from about 305,000 now) and 275,000 Soviet troops in Eastern Europe — to 195,000 troops apiece in the so-called Central Zone.

In addition the United States would be allowed a total of 30,000 other troops in four countries further from the front lines — Britain, Italy, Greece and Turkey. There is apparently no provision for a Soviet deployment, outside its own territory, to match these.

Proposal

Experts said that under the old proposal, even though Moscow has between 565,000 and 575,000 troops in Eastern Europe it might ultimately have had problems deploying as many as 275,000 because of pressure from its allies to withdraw.

Already Czechoslovakia and Hungary have begun talks with the Russians on pulling out all Soviet troops from their territory.

Colonel Andrew Duncan of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London said the new proposal should appeal to all parties.

"It will enable the Russians to be softer on the Hungarians and Czechoslovaks, (the US) Congress should approve because it reduces US commitments overseas, and the Europeans will say if it is done in the context of CFE, that will suit them," he said.

The Bush plan drew an initial favourable response both from Nato, whose Secretary-General Manfred Woerner said it had broad support in the alliance, and from Soviet spokesman Gennady Gerasimov,

who called it a step in the right direction.

Western diplomats said they did not think the proposals would mean fundamental revisions of Nato strategy.

"If you're talking about forward defence, it's still do-able," one said.

Forward defence means defending Western Europe at its borders with the East, instead of allowing Warsaw Pact forces to penetrate and then counter-attacking.

Bush's proposals do nothing, however, to ease the technical problems of the conventional forces talks. Officials in Vienna, who have not agreed even on the definition of some weapons systems involved, have already complained that this is one of the most complicated negotiations ever undertaken.

Nor is any official keen to predict what second-stage negotiations following a conventional forces treaty would look like, as the almost daily shifts in the political map of Europe cast doubt on the future

of both Western and Eastern alliances.

Western experts said there appeared little future for the Warsaw Pact in its present role as the East European countries reject Communism and move psychologically into the Western camp, even though still anchored militarily and politically to Moscow.

Nato too seems headed for change but many members want a continued US military presence in Western Europe. Britain has already been stressing that the troop cuts proposed by Bush on Wednesday are the last envisaged by Washington.

The biggest puzzle is Germany, the centre of the East-West confrontation since World War Two. There are 380,000 Soviet troops in East Germany and 400,000 foreign Nato troops in West Germany.

Moves towards German reunification are gathering pace with East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow saying on Thursday that the two German states should merge gradually in a federation with Berlin as its capital.

'New era' proclaimed

WASHINGTON, (UPI): President Bush, in his first State of the Union address, proclaimed a "new era" in the affairs of the world but not in the affairs of the republic.

Bush talked Wednesday of a new world to come in which America "stands at the centre of a widening circle of freedom — today, tomorrow and into the next century" — and backed that vision with specific recommendations.

He proposed a deep cut in US and Soviet military manpower in Central and Eastern Europe and "Swift conclusion" in the negotiations for conventional, chemical and strategic weapons control treaties, saying "the time has come."

But when his speech focused on the United States and its problems, Bush offered little that was either new or stimulating.

The president called for a "better America" with a job for everyone who wants one, a clean environment and a strong economy and a nation "where every street, every city, every school and every child is drug-free."

These goals, possibly with the

exception of the more recent phenomenon of illicit drugs, has been the dream and vision of every president who came to the hallowed chamber of the House of Representatives to give his assessment of the state of the United States.

But he provided no new ideas, no new initiatives. Instead, Bush once more urged to cut in the capital gains tax to encourage "risk-takers" — to take those steps that translate into economic reward, jobs and better life for all of us.

And he insisted goals of jobs, education, economic expansion, clean air, child care, an end to crime and drugs, better health care and many others can come to pass and the budget balanced by 1993 — all "with no new taxes."

If there is already such a thing, the speech was vintage Bush — a broad, optimistic vision of a great America created in a painless, tax-free way that Democrats and some Republicans do not believe can be done.

Once again, as he did in his inaugural address a little more than a

year ago, Bush offered "my hand" to the Congress in a spirit of bipartisan co-operation. But the Congress, which still likes Bush, is much more suspicious of him than it was at the start of his presidency.

Congress, heavily controlled by Democrats, shares his version for the nations in general terms but not all his approaches to solving the problems. And Democrats do not believe the very programmes he champions can be developed with the ever-increasing shortage of money in the federal treasury.

That is why Bush's "bombshell" announcement that he will propose a mutual reduction of military manpower to 195,000 for each side — a reduction of US troops overseas by more than 100,000 — will be heartily welcomed.

This could provide, as the president's budget did not, the seeds of a "peace dividend" — if it materializes, free the money for the domestic programme that have been cut and curtailed over the years.

Should that happen, virtually everything else in Bush's speech will be forgotten.

Letters to the editor

Shocking news

SIR: I was shocked to read the death news of famous actress Ava Gardner.

Beauty Queen Ava Gardner acted in all her films superbly. The death of Ava Gardner is a great loss to cine world and to her fans. I request KTV authorities to show her films in memory of her to the viewers.

H.S.Rao,
Safat.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Rebels getting act together

KABUL, (Reuters): Afghanistan's warring groups are revamping their political image.

The aim is to make them more acceptable at home and abroad. The groups want to attract more supporters for a trial of strength on the battlefield or proposed elections in a post-war Afghanistan, diplomats say.

"If we don't reflect the will of the people, how can we win?" said Mohammed Seddiq Rahpoe, deputy chief of the international affairs department of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA).

He said a PDPA conference in the spring would debate changes to the party's constitution and name to make it more acceptable and responsive to the people's will.

In a similar move, the rebel Afghan Interim Government (AIG) plans elections at about the same time among Afghans in refugee camps in Iran, Pakistan and rebel-held areas of Afghanistan to choose a new broad-based government.

The AIG was formed last year by Muslim mujahideen groups based in Pakistan to succeed the Soviet-backed PDPA government of President Najibullah. Iran-based rebels refused to take part in the AIG, claiming their role would be too limited.

Diplomats were unsure whether the changes to the PDPA and the AIG would be merely cosmetic. But they agreed that new packaging alone was unlikely to speed the end of the war, now in its 11th year.

"It is hard to believe the changes will speed up the end of the war. As long as the PDPA leadership remains, there can be no real change," one diplomat said.

The rebels have rejected any compromise with a government they hold responsible for the deaths of more than one million people and the exile of five million others.

Rahpoe said the PDPA was not interested in cosmetic changes alone. He said the party planned to "expunge" from its constitution "all references to socialism and anything which might be interpreted as socialism."

A change in the colour of the party flag was also being considered because red smacked of communism, he said.

Once a staunch follower of the Marxist-Leninist line, the PDPA now claims to be Islamic, nationalist and pro-democracy.

Rahpoe said Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan was a mistake. "It isolated the party from the people. Nobody believed in us. They said the party was a puppet of the Soviet Union."

The communists seized power in Kabul with a bloody coup in 1978, and Soviet troops arrived the following year to prop up the government. Moscow withdrew its troops nearly a year ago but continues to supply Kabul with weapons, food and fuel.

PDPA sources said the proposed changes were meeting strong resistance from the hardline Khalq faction within the party. The Khalq says the changes would betray the memory of comrades who died fighting for the PDPA.

The Khalq has strong support in the army, but Najibullah's more moderate faction dominates the PDPA and has the backing of the feared Khat secret police, which he headed for six years before becoming president in 1987.

Bloody infighting has marked the party's internal politics since it seized power.

Diplomats said Najibullah has been able to defuse the threat of a coup against him by sending potential challengers into exile or unleashing the Khad on suspected plotters.

They said 127 people including seven generals, many of them members of the Khalq, were arrested in December for plotting the overthrow of Najibullah.

At a news conference last week, Najibullah said those arrested for "anti-state activities" had links with the mujahideen rebels.

"Some small numbers (of coup plotters) may still exist, but I can assure you they cannot pose a threat to the government," he added.

Quote me

"Drug dealers deal on the corner and (police) let it happen. The moment someone puts on a suit and bow tie to clean up the problem, here come the police to shoot them dead. I say to the city of Los Angeles, we appreciate your condolences. But we don't want condolences; we want justice." — Louis Farrakhan after the slaying of a black Muslim by a cop.

"The sheriffs are saying they are sorry for what's happening. But sorry and a cover-up are no good. Too many of our young men are dead from policemen's bullets that are being called justifiable homicide. It will continue until we say never again." — Louis Farrakhan after a black youth was slain by a sheriff's deputy.

"We are managing to win even without our most important player. One upon a time they used to say that Milan was totally dependent on Gullit. But we have won six consecutive matches and no-one talks about him anymore. But I haven't forgotten him, he's still close to my heart. We're waiting for him and doing everything possible so that when he comes back he'll find Milan on top." — AC Milan coach Arrigo Sacchi.

"Having seen with great sorrow and deep regret that Socialist practices and methods persist, that labels continue to be attached on the strength of security files and accusations made by pounding the table; that the press is still directed to destroy some people and promote some others. I resign the office I said I did not want on the very first day." — Romanian Vice-President, Dimitrie Mazilu.

کتنا اونٹن

Threat to blow up Ataturk Dam

NICOSIA, Feb 2, (AP): A hitherto unknown group calling itself the Kurdish-Arab Front against Turkey threatened today to blow up the Ataturk Dam on the Euphrates River "as soon as possible."

The threat, which came in a typewritten statement in English and Arabic mailed to the Associated Press office from Nicosia, "three weeks after Turkey cut off the river's flow for one month to fill the reservoir."

The postmark was illegible.

and it was not clear when the statement was written.

"We must not let Turkey finish an odious project: the Ataturk Dam," the statement said. "We are ready to blow it up. Let's unite our efforts to destroy it as soon as possible."

"Dear Arab brothers, let's unite our efforts and prevent Turkey from tapping in Euphrates on Jan 13, 1990 let's address our protests to the OIC, the international court at The Hague and the United Nations."

A spokeswoman for the Kurdish Solidarity Committee of the Cyprus House of Representatives, which hosted two Kurdish activists in Cyprus earlier this week, said she had never heard of the group.

The two, Hassan Akin and Omer Hoja of the outlawed Kurdish Workers Party of Turkey, known as the PKK, had denounced alleged human rights abuses in Turkey and appealed to the United States for assistance.

The US State Department protested their presence in Cyprus, calling the PKK "terrorists." The Cyprus government said it rejected the protest.

The Turks diverted much of the Euphrates water for one month, beginning Jan 13, to fill the reservoir at the Ataturk Dam, centerpiece of a major hydroelectric and irrigation project in their impoverished southeastern province.

PLO bid to stop Jew influx fails

'Dirty deal': Arab League

TUNIS, Feb 2, (Agencies): The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) failed to extract substantial concessions from the Soviet Union during initial talks on the mass exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel, PLO officials said yesterday.

Soviet envoy Gennady Tarasov met PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat on Wednesday after Arafat returned from a brief visit to Morocco, they said.

"The Soviet Union said it was against settling the Jews in the occupied territories and that the Jews should have the right to choose where they go," a PLO spokesman said.

Asked if there was progress on the PLO's demands for practical measures to slow down the exodus, the spokesman said they were still discussing the principles behind the exodus.

"Practically speaking, this should be discussed with the United States," he said. "It's they who have closed the door (for immigration to the United States) and who give Israel the means to settle them."

Arafat asked the Soviet Union to arrange for Soviet Jews to make "stopovers" in Europe so they can decide whether they want to emigrate to Israel or elsewhere, PLO sources said.

However, the sources denied reports that the PLO suggested that Jews leaving the Soviet Union be placed in transit camps in Europe.

The Hungarian state airline Malev has agreed in principle to fly thousands of Soviet Jews from Moscow to Tel Aviv but implementation of the airlift hinges on Soviet approval, aviation sources said.

Israel newspaper reports today quoted Moscow radio's Hebrew-language broadcasts as calling Arab protests "an artificial storm" and saying the Soviet Union would not restrict Jewish emigration.

A Czechoslovak delegation discussed the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel with Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Kibi and reiterated an offer to Arafat to mediate in the Middle East peace process, officials said.

An Arab League official said the sudden increase in Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel looked like "a dirty deal" between the superpowers.

All the indications are there's a deal between the two great powers and the victims of the deal are the Palestinian people," Mohammed Al Farrah, the League's assistant secretary-general for Palestinian affairs, told a news conference.

A senior PLO leader said it will send a delegation to Moscow to ask the Soviet Union to restrict Jewish immigration to Israeli-occupied territories.

Azzam Al Ahmed, the Palestinian ambassador in Baghdad, told the Associated Press the delegation will comprise leaders of the PLO's various factions and members of the PLO executive committee.

Two Iraqi state-controlled newspapers attacked Moscow and Washington for what they called the easing of emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

"The exodus of Soviet Jews is a flagrant violation to the human rights of the Palestinian people and a threat to the national security of the whole Arab nation," ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra said in an editorial.

Morocco's King Hassan denounced the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel as a nightmare tantamount to the Arab defeat in the 1967 war which led to Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The king said in a statement setting Soviet Jews in the Israeli-occupied territories was a violation of human rights.

A Jewish newspaper reported today in London that a "staggering" £7 million was raised in a single evening this week as "former Soviet dissident" Neuman Sharnay urged British Jews to help the Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel.

A PLO official said in Copenhagen that Israel plans to use any East German reparations it might receive for World War Two Nazi atrocities to help settle Soviet Jews in the occupied territories.

The European Economic Community has expressed "serious concern" at the recent suggestions that the Soviet immigrants to Israel may be settled in the occupied territories.

A statement issued in Dublin by the Irish Republic, the current president of the EEC, recalled that "the 12 hold a long-standing view that the Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, are illegal."

dam is soft yards position

HDAD, Feb 2, (Reuters): President Saddam Hussein raised his people yesterday by stressing sympathies with the position.

"I feel that half of me is still with the opposition," he told lawyers from the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) which links Iraq with Egypt, Jordan and North Yemen.

He said he was confident that such feelings were legitimate and helped to prevent him making mistakes.

"When I feel we (rulers) have imposed too much on the people or some of them through a certain programme or policy, I call on my brothers (in the leadership) to retreat, reform and correct the mistakes," he said.

Saddam's speech, broadcast over Baghdad Radio, responded to an Egyptian lawyer who accused Arab governments of imposing emergency measures to suppress the opposition.

Saddam said on Wednesday that his government had drafted a new constitution, allowing political parties and freedom of the press. He said it would be put to a referendum soon.

Iraq is now ruled by the Arab Baath Socialist Party and the only other legal parties are two minor Kurdish groups.

Saddam admitted that some measures towards democracy which he had promised to a group of Arab lawyers last year had been delayed.

But he added: "We in Iraq are still keeping our word as regards the democratic principles, concepts and measures we promised."



Palestinian men and boys march carrying Palestinian flags and a PLO banner with a picture of Yasser Arafat in Nablus. Muslim women march behind them. The demonstration was in commemoration to Zahi Hanini and Aleshi Khatata, two Palestinian youths who were killed in December of last year. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rabin freezes forced ousters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 2, (Agencies): Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has ordered a temporary halt to the expulsion of Palestinians living in the occupied territories without residency permits, a practice that often separates husbands and wives.

The announcement, which cited humanitarian reasons, came a day after the US State Department expressed concern over the practice which has torn apart hundreds of families in the past year.

Palestinian activists claim the expulsions have been stepped up and are part of a long-term strategy to force Palestinians out of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Rabin told reporters Wednesday he decided to stop expulsions and review the policy to prevent "a case in which half a family will be forced out while another part will be allowed to stay."

He indicated, however, that expulsions would resume. "We cannot afford, in principle, that a person who comes as a tourist or a visitor, takes the liberty to stay forever," he said.

Amnesty International charged Israel at the UN commission on human rights for detaining prisoners of conscience in the occupied Arab territories.

"Amnesty International remains seriously concerned about the human rights situation in the Israeli occupied territories more than two years since the beginning of the Palestinian intifada (uprising)," it said.

"Of particular concern during 1989 was the extensive use of administrative detention without charge or trial, allegations of torture and ill-treatment, and the killing of unarmed civilians by Israeli forces," the agency said.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon, whose power struggle threatens Middle East peace talks, have stepped up their feud as a showdown draws near.

Adding to the disarray, the two have issued different invitations to a crucial Likud Party central committee meeting to set positions on proposed peace talks with Palestinians.

Turkey's ties with Greece at its lowest

ANKARA, Feb 2, (Agencies): Ethnic Turks in a northern Greek town fear to venture from their homes five days after 19 people were injured in clashes with Greeks, Turkey's ambassador to Greece said today.

Ambassador Gökmen Akman was recalled for consultations as relations between the two countries slipped to their lowest since they nearly went to war over Aegean Sea rights in 1987.

"This is the lowest point in our relationship since March 1987. We no longer believe in the goodwill of the Greek government," a senior Turkish Foreign Ministry official said.

Akman told the semi-official Anatolian news agency: "The situation in Komotini has not settled fully and Turks there still fear to go out of their homes."

Foreign Ministry sources reported top-level meetings in Ankara to discuss Greece's request for the recall of Turkey's coast-guard general in Komotini, Kemal Güç.

In a separate development, a Muslim fundamentalist group has claimed responsibility for the fatal shooting of a prominent leftist, Turkish papers reported yesterday.

The nation's leading dailies said a group calling itself the Islamic Revival Organisation telephoned their offices hours after the Wednesday evening slaying of 73-year-old Mismar Aksoy. The gunman escaped.

Algerian army vows to defend democracy

ALGIERS, Feb 2, (Reuters): Algeria's army is not alarmed by social unrest and violence plaguing the country since political freedom was introduced last year but would intervene to defend the emerging democracy, a top general says.

"The army is not at all worried," Moustapha Cheloufi, secretary-general of the Defence Ministry, told Reuters in a rare interview.

"On the contrary, when I see demonstrations taken place in peace and calm I see an extraordinary evolution of our people," he added.

"We will not accept that certain people understand democracy to be anarchy, or an expression of pressure, intimidation or oppression," he said. "It is apparent we are witnessing the rise of a Islamic fundamentalist movement."

Ben Bella seeks guarantee

ALGIERS, Feb 2, (Reuters): Exiled former President Ahmed Ben Bella wants to return to Algeria if he gets a presidential guarantee that he will not face judicial charges, a close associate said yesterday.

Mohamed Seghir Nakache, President of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria (MDA) which Ben Bella founded in 1982, told Reuters it remained unclear whether Ben Bella would face prosecution at home.

"The only way of lifting the obstacle to Ben Bella's return is a presidential statement that all the past affairs of the MDA do not concern the former President, who can return without being bothered by the law," Nakache said.

President Chadli Benjedid said on Wednesday that Algerians, including those in exile, were free to come and go under the country's new democratic constitution.

Algeria has moved in a few months from a one-party state led by the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) to a country of 20 parties, daily strikes and frequent street demonstrations.

Muslim extremists attacked a courtroom in the town of Bida last month, killing a policeman, while other acts of violence and intimidation have been blamed on Islamic fundamentalists.

Some fundamentalist leaders have denounced Western-style democracy as un-Islamic, raising fears they might subvert the constitution if in power.

"I do not think that people who came to power through democracy would then shut the door and return us to a dictatorship," Cheloufi said.

The strongest opposition party, the Islamic Salvation Front, has pledged to introduce Islamic law in Algeria through democratic means.

Cheloufi said the army, long a pillar of the one-party state, was adapting to a new role as defender of a constitution that for the first time since independence in 1962 guarantees political freedoms.

Top army brass including Cheloufi pulled out of the FLN central committee last March and have since pronounced themselves apolitical, committed to a democratic rule of law.

President Chadli Benjedid, himself a former army officer, is commander in chief and defence minister, but Cheloufi runs day-to-day affairs at the ministry.

ship. The army would not allow this," Cheloufi said.

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MIDEAST BRIEFS

fusal to evict
WASHINGTON, Feb 2, (AP): A US court judge yesterday ordered to let the administration of President George Bush evict Lebanon Gen. Michel Aoun's representative from the Lebanese embassy.

The action came a day after the US State Department reiterated its call to Aoun to step aside immediately, saying his "belligerent behaviour" is to blame for fighting between rival Christians that has left dozens dead.

Patriarch dies
OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 2, (UPI): The leader of the Armenian orthodox church Patriarch Yeghise Derderian in occupied Jerusalem and Jordan died of a cerebral haemorrhage in the residence he has occupied for 30 years, his secretary said today.

Patriarch Yeghise Derderian, 80, died at 9pm yesterday in his bedroom at the Armenian orthodox patriarchate in occupied Jerusalem's walled Old City, George Hinitian said. Derderian had become ill with the flu shortly before his death, which Hinitian described as sudden.

Expulsion call
STRASBOURG, France, Feb 2, (Reuters): Western European parliamentarians called today for Iran to be expelled from the United Nations, saying 90,000 people had been executed there since Ayatollah Khomeini died last year.

Ibrahim dies
ASWAN, Egypt, Feb 2, (Reuters): Former Egyptian vice-president Hassan Ibrahim, a fighter pilot who was among a group of army officers who toppled the monarchy in 1952, died yesterday, following a heart attack, officials said. He was 72.

Call for self-restraint

A blind Muslim theologian who leads one of Egypt's underground Muslim militant groups appealed to his followers on Thursday to exercise self-restraint in a simmering confrontation with security forces.

But Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, a former professor of Islamic jurisprudence, also warned that militant Muslims could become "time bombs or thunderous volcanoes."

Secret visit
BEIRUT, Feb 2, (Kuma): President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad had held two rounds of talks during a secret visit by Mubarak to Damascus last month, a Lebanese magazine said here yesterday.

Al Shera magazine, in an addition to be issued tomorrow, reported that the two leaders had discussed Pan Arab issues including the Palestinian question, noting points of view were identical except for the Palestinian cause.

Rebels deny
ADDIS ABABA, Feb 2, (Reuters): Sudanese rebels denied today reports in Khartoum's government-controlled newspapers that the army had broken their sieges of two southern towns.

"The allegation is an attempt by the Khartoum government to raise the army morale that had been badly affected by the war in the south," Lam Akol, the number three commander of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), told Reuters.

Girl shot
CAIRO, Feb 2, (UPI): A blind old man overjoyed at the wedding of his niece fired shots into the air, but accidentally killed yesterday, a five-year-old girl on a balcony, police said.

They said the unnamed man was taken into custody after the incident in the village of Tokki, north of Cairo.

Iran denies
PARIS, Feb 2, (Reuters): Iran's embassy denied allegations by a police informer that Tehran masterminded a bombing campaign in Paris which killed 13 people and injured 250.

\$60 m bail for Filipino captain

CAIRO, Feb 2, (Reuters): An Egyptian court has imposed bail of \$60 million on a Filipino captain whose ship struck an oil platform in the Red Sea Gulf of Suez in December.

The national Middle East News Agency (MENA) said a court in the upper Egyptian town of Qena on Wednesday set what is believed to be a record for bail in an Egyptian court.

Captain Vicente Mejia Ahanes has been in police custody since his ship, the 27,652-tonne bulk carrier Panay Sampaguita, crashed into the offshore platform operated by the Gulf of Suez Petroleum Company (Gupco) on December 9.

The accident halted production of 6,000 barrels of oil a day and caused 5,000 barrels of oil to spill into the sea.

Gupco officials have said they were seeking initial compensation of \$100 million. The company had to block wells to stop more oil spilling into the sea.

Khmeini's son attacks West and warns of a clash with US

TEHRAN, Feb 2, (Reuters): Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's son told thousands of Iranians there could be no compromise with the West and warned of a clash with the United States as Iran began revolution anniversary celebrations yesterday.

More than 150,000 people packed a huge hall built around Khomeini's grave to pay tribute to the founder of the Islamic republic on the first day of "10-day dawn" celebrations.

Some 50,000 others, unable to get in, milled in cold wind outside the shrine in the southern outskirts of the capital.

Shoeless men and women sat separately

on the hall's carpeted floor and listened to addresses by Ahmad Khomeini and President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Ahmad, a 43-year-old cleric, spoke of his father's vision of permanent struggle against oppression and godlessness.

"Some people say that if America does not bother us, we will have nothing against it. But the Imam (Khomeini) never had doubts about fighting oppressors."

"If we hesitate, America will strike at us. Our people must be ready for an intense struggle with America. Otherwise, it will destroy us," he said.

"Those who speak of compromise with the West are not in the Imam's line. We are followers of the Imam only when we stand up to the East and the West."

Ahmad was Khomeini's chief aide before the death of the revolutionary leader last June 3 following cancer surgery.

He has been appointed to two senior policy-making councils by his father's successor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, but holds no other official position.

His remarks were in contrast to the policies of Rafsanjani and other senior leaders who stress economic development as the main task of the nation and call for good relations with most foreign countries.

Ahmad, however, praised Rafsanjani as "my big and good brother, a genuine revolutionary who I hope will be able to navigate this ship to the shores of salvation."

Rafsanjani, 55, returned the compliment, thanking "the uniquely revolutionary and vigilant son of the Imam."

The President said the Iranian revolution's biggest lesson for other nations was Khomeini's unbounded reliance on God and people and his firm conviction of the weakness of enemies.

A Christian woman begs Lebanese soldiers at the museum crossing to help find her children who were lost in East Beirut when fighting broke out between rival Christian foes. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bush ready to battle for aid cut to Israel

WASHINGTON, Feb 2, (Agencies): President George Bush will press for cuts of up to 10 per cent in foreign aid to Israel, Egypt and other major recipients, a senior administration official said.

The official, who spoke to Reuters on condition that he not be identified, said the administration had decided to tackle one of congress' sacred cows head-on — the system under which more than 85 per cent of the US aid budget was earmarked in advance for specific countries.

"Would we support and argue for and try to get a five per cent slash across the board or 10 per cent? Yes, you bet your life. And would that mean money from Egypt and Israel? Yes, it would," the official said.

He dismissed the idea that the Israeli economy would be badly damaged by a five per cent aid cut.

"Do you really think if you took \$150 million out of \$3 billion for Israel that it would mean the end of civilisation as we know it?" he asked.

He made it clear that the administration believed the present system was harming US foreign policy. Bush was willing to risk what could be a politically damaging confrontation with Congress and its powerful pro-Israel lobby to change it.

"Nothing's earmarked in Africa, so they get hammered. Very little is earmarked in Latin America, they get killed... this is wrong. What's happening is not in the national interest, it's not in our foreign policy interest," the official said.

Secretary of State James Baker told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that enacting meant the administration had to cut aid for countries in Latin America and the Caribbean that were co-operating with Washington's fight against the drugs trade.

The Bush administration appears likely to win congressional approval for its proposed \$307.2 million tank sale package for Saudi Arabia, the Geneva-based specialist defence publication "International Defence Review" reports in its latest monthly publication.

Six killed, 122 hurt in Kabul blast

ISLAMABAD, Feb 2, (Agencies): A car bomb exploded on Wednesday in a busy area of the Afghan capital of Kabul, killing at least six people, wounding 122 and causing extensive destruction, official Kabul Radio said.

The radio blamed the explosion on "extremists" — the government's term for US-backed rebels based in Pakistan fighting an 11-year-old war against the pro-Soviet Afghan regime.

The Pashto-language broadcast said the bomb, placed in a parked car, exploded on Wednesday morning in a crowded district in the centre of the city. It said the blast left six people dead, 122 wounded and damaged or destroyed many nearby vehicles and buildings.

It was the first major bombing reported by the government in several months in Kabul, where resistance leaders say they have large numbers of infiltrators. Hundreds have died in rebel rocket attacks in the capital since last summer.

Kabul Radio also said a tribunal sentenced two "extremists" to death for a bombing in Kabul last year that killed one person and wounded several others.

The United States, dampening expectations of imminent progress towards a settlement of the conflict in Afghanistan, expects an upsurge in the fighting there this spring, a senior US official said in Washington.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said the relatively high level of fighting during the winter months suggested the mujahideen rebels fighting the Soviet-backed government had adopted a more realistic assessment of the strength of their enemy.

The President said the Iranian revolution's biggest lesson for other nations was Khomeini's unbounded reliance on God and people and his firm conviction of the weakness of enemies.

Ahmad, however, praised Rafsanjani as "my big and good brother, a genuine revolutionary who I hope will be able to navigate this ship to the shores of salvation."

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EVENTS



Meridien bids farewell to Yousef Al Ghabra

The Meridien Kuwait management hosted a farewell party in honour of Yousef Al Ghabra, Public Relations Manager who will soon be leaving the hotel. A gift from all the hotel's department heads was presented to Al Ghabra for the invaluable service he has contributed during his ten-year tenure with the Meridien Hotel. The management and staff wished him the best of luck in his career, wherever it should take him.

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Hall booked
Sahmya
Hall booked
Al Hamra
Ninja Champion
Drive-in
Arabic Film
Al Firdous
Bandhan Anjana
Fahsheel
Begana
Al Jahra
Red Sonja
Granada
Arabic Film
Sulalikhath
Arabic Film
Jleeb
White Ghost

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Ghanim Pharmacy
Fahad Al Salem Street
near Carlton Tower Hotel
Al Baqami Pharmacy
Ahmad Al Jaber Street
Sharq, Raed bldg.
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Rihab Pharmacy
Hawalli, Tunis Street
Al Rihab Complex
Sahmya & Rasmithiya
Dina Pharmacy
Amman Street extension
Shu'a Al Sabah bldg
Fahsheel & Alhamra
Adel Pharmacy
Fahsheel, Dabous Street
Al Awadi bldg
Farwasya
Manawer Pharmacy
Southern Souk Street
Abbas Manawer bldg
Jahra
Al Zahra Pharmacy
Souk Jadid

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.16
Zohr	12.02 pm
Asr	3.06 pm
Maghreb	5.27
Isha	6.46

Maha Halwani masters the art of decoupage

By Intisar Abd Al-Salam

THE decoupage art has many definitions. The first says that this art is applied to revive furniture and to broadcast beauty in the pieces scattered around the house. The decoupage art puts these aspects to any home any repainting and redecorating pieces starting from a match box up to the biggest furniture item which your eyes fall onto each time you are inside your house. This art includes all other arts which are almost similar to it. The second definition of the decoupage is looked at by its exact traditional meaning, as the art which applied paper arts including drawing, cutting, colouring of paper and attaching it to different furniture and decoration items.

Maha Halwani Ouda Allah came to know all about this art and mastered it by applying full potential. Currently, she is teaching this art at the Islamic Care Society and in addition to that she masters drawing on silk and glass pieces and likes reading history books particularly books containing the biography of popular personalities.

Al Seyassa newspaper interviewed her in order to obtain more knowledge on this art which was originally used by Phoenicians and is currently widely spread in Kuwait.

Maha said that initially she heard about it as an art and felt that she was attracted to it and wanting to learn more about it. She took lessons on Decoupage from Wafiq Abdul Hadi and followed up by travelling to Egypt to attend courses on this particular art. By that time, she was even more interested in expanding her knowledge into it.

Maha said that the Decoupage art requires constant follow-up because it is a wide and never ending sea of knowledge. She indicated that this type of art requires continuous practical training which generates and enhances an individual's discovery spirits. Maha stressed that creativity will not be achieved unless it is combined with discovery.

With respect to Maha's historical background on the Decoupage art, she stated that she only has little to mention. Phoenicians came to know and apply the Decoupage art in the 17th century. This art was then transferred to the Italians and the French in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Americans used decoupage in the early stages of the twentieth century and tried to develop it, after that it spread all over the world.

Arabs knew about this art and decorated their houses with it but the name decoupage is a new title for this art, Maha said. She added Arabs practised decoupage but, did not look at it as an art.

On reasons why ceramic



works and silk arts are more popular than decoupage, she pointed out that probably these arts are easier to learn and cost less.

She explained that decoupage methods are very simple but, requires big space...all we have to do is to cut off any uncoloured figure, colour it, spraying a fixer to the colour and attaching it to an already painted pot. The pots are finally sprayed with special sprays in order to give it a shiny external look that has more depth, beauty and attractiveness.

Maha uses regular wood colours. She indicates that a student should pass through three stages in order to learn decoupage, first practising decoupage on glass, clay and third on furniture and silk. She said that a student requires only six months to learn this art.



TELEVISION PROGRAMS

KTV 1

The Morning Period

9.30 The Opening and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al Kher News
9.50 Cartoon serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Ghoraba Fi Al Madeena: Arabic serial (part 6)
11.25 Sabah Al Kher News
11.30 Wadaan Zaman Al Sami: Weekly Arabic serial (part 5)
12.25 News Summary
12.30 Sabah Al Kher Final
12.35 Holy Quran and Closedown

The Evening Period

4.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.45 Saham Al Fadha: Cartoon serial
5.15 The Young Artist: Local children programme, prepared and presented by Mohammed Al Shaikh
5.45 Night Chemists, airlines and official advertisements
6.00 Al Fareso Al Aashiq: Historical serial (part 13)
7.00 Varieties
7.15 Noor Al Islam: Religious serial presented and prepared by Ahmad Abdul Qader
7.45 Cultural programme
8.00 Security and Citizens: Local programme, prepared by the Ministry of Interior Public Relations Department.
8.30 Good Evening and Local News
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Daerat Al Ahdath: Local programme, prepared and presented by Kamel Abdul Jaleel
10.15 Al Laaboon Fi Al Nar: Arabic serial (part 11)
11.00 Thaib Al Nashama: Beduin serial, starring Ghanem Al Saleh Ali Al Mofeedi, Roubi Al Safadi and Mahmoud

Abu Ghareeb
12.30 News Summary
12.35 The World Today via Satellite
12.50 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran
6.10 Adventures of Raggedy and Andy: A cartoon series for children
6.30 Orphans of the Wild "Ostriches": A look at ostriches in their natural environment. They are considered one of the fastest animals as its speed reaches 40 mile per hour.
7.00 The Ultimate Machine: Senses and equilibrium...sports and technology...improvement of skills by concentration and training...music and dance and their effect on body muscles...
7.30 The Hogan Family "Burned Court": Fire breaks out in the Hogan's house
8.00 News in English
8.30 Quantum Leap "The Colour of Truth": "Sam", by the help of "Al", the invisible man, becomes a taxi driver where he is involved in many complicated matters particularly with an injured black young woman...
9.30 The Nuclear Weapons Eps. 1: The bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the atomic bomb. Nuclear weapons strategy armament...
10.30 Late feature film. "Maybe Baby". Starring: Dabney Coleman, Jane Catin. An old couple have to face a new way of life after the arrival of a baby
12.00 News in brief
12.30 Magazine D'Actualite



KTV 2.7.00 — The Ultimate Machine



Manager of The Year

SAS Kuwait Hotel selected their Manager of The Year, Steinar Bergvoll, Director of Sales. The award was granted to Bergvoll for his overall outstanding performance, loyalty, wit and charm throughout the year. Werner Kuendig, General Manager (right) presented the award of Manager of The Year to Bergvoll (left).

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Seminar

THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration maybe made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah. Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

SOCIAL

Canadian Women's League

FEB 3: An invitation is extended to all Canadian women to attend this month's meeting to be held on Saturday February 3 from 4 to 6 pm in Qurtoba. For more information call 2563025 or 2563867.

Carnival Fiesta '90

YMCA/Incredible S.C. are proud to announce their Carnival Fiesta '90 at Messilah Beach Hotel (Habiba) on Feb 22, '90.

Non-stop dancing from 8.30 pm onwards to the best of latest sensation "Hurricane Alley" and "Neighbourhood".

Highlights: Best Carnival couple (fancy) and many many surprises. For details contact the organisers on Tel. 2450279 (between 8 am to 1 pm) or Tel. 3921712.

Soviet Ballet

STARS of the Soviet Ballet, featuring the Russian Ballet Company of Moscow will be touring Kuwait on February 2 and 3. They will perform 130 minute shows at Al Andalus Cinema, Hawalli. On Friday, Feb 2, the show will start at 6.00 pm. On Saturday, Feb 3, it will start at 8.00 pm. Tickets will be on sale starting Thursday 10.00 am to 8.00 pm, Friday throughout the day and during the following week at the box office.

Hobby centre

A NEW 8 week course in Jewellery and Design making — For more details call: Telephone: 5618847 or 5317354.

Konkani drama

THE New Goans Overseas Association is pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Sounsrant Astana Diat" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funaites) on 16th February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, Felcy, Josephine, Betty Alvares, Tita, Junior Rod, Carlos, Rosario Dias, C. D'Silva, John De Parra and Menino de Bandar. Tickets now available at Canary Video (Sharq) and Video Clock (near G.P.O.). Rush for tickets, one show only.

Annual one act Play Competition

INDIAN Arts Circle announces the II Annual One Play Competition to be held during Eid holidays in April, 1990. The competition is open to Plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), Best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Funaites. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990.

Please contact IAC office (Tel. 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

Ladies International League

YOU are invited to attend the next general meeting on Monday, February 5, Sheraton Ballroom A. Our programme will be presented by Claude Maxime. Everyone welcome! Doors open 6 pm, programme begins at 7 pm promptly! Door charge.

Daniella Fastelabn

Daniella celebrates "Fastelabn" for Dances at Gazelle Club on Friday, Feb 16, at 1 pm. For reservations please call Marianne — Tel: 3710215 ext 20 or Winnie — Tel: 5733382 before Feb 13.

Kalepak's Drama Competition

KERALA Arts and Literature Promotion Association of Kuwait (Kalepak) is conducting a Malayalam One Act Play Competition at Indian Arts Circle on 9th February 1990.

Raga Sharqi

INTENSIVE courses (January and February) in Raga Sharqi, the classical dance form of the Middle East. For details call 4836021.

German-Speaking Cultural Association

THE next coffee morning for German-speaking ladies will be held on Sunday, Feb 4, 10 am, at Kuwait International Hotel, Old Failaka Room. Please make an effort to attend. Newcomers are particularly welcome.

Craft Centre

MOVERS are your hands too full with your toys out weekend? Here's a chance for you to relax and introduce them to creative art. For details contact 563740, between 9 - 12 noon.

Daniella Coffee Morning

Next coffee morning for Danes will take place at the SAS hotel on Sunday February 4 at 9.00 am. For further information, if needed, please call Inge on 3727688 ext 207.

Kuwait Little Theatre

Kuwait Little Theatre, Ahmad, present the Kuwait Folk Group in concert on 14th and 15th February, at 8 pm both nights. Tickets, can be ordered by phoning 3919759.

Videos of the recent very successful pantomime Sindbad the Sailor, can be picked up from the theatre on Sunday 4th February from 7 pm to 9 pm.

Like a Hurricane!!

SEVENTH Sky's Rock Concert at Al Andalus Cinema on 15th & 16th Feb '90. Featuring Rock, Pop/Rock and Rock 'n' Roll from the 80's. For information and reservation call 5730265/2543219.

SPORTS

Tivim Centre

TIVIM Centre is pleased to announce their 3rd Annual 9-a-side Inter Village Football Tournament which will be held on the Sour grounds, Kuwait City, beginning March 27/28th 1990. For further information please contact organisers — 2441860 Casimiro.

Now at the MBH Sports Centre

Life saving course, with Royal Life Saving Society Coach, Grade 1 Examiner will be commencing shortly.

Ergocycle Fitness Computer

tests and courses now available at Messilah.

Jazzercise/Aerobics/Staying

power/Yoga and Ballet exercise classes also available.

Coaching classes

COACHING classes for new recruits, who desire to qualify as football referees, conducted by the Indian Football Referees' Association, Kuwait

(IFRA), will commence from Friday, February 23, 1990. Interested candidates may contact D'Souza, Tel: 2402631-2; or Anthony Fernandes, Tel: 2445729/2431674 or any members of the committee at the Sour Ground in person for any further information.

Qualified members of any Indian states' referees' associations and/or of Asian/European referees associations are welcome to join the association as members.

HOTELS

Kuwait International Hotel

FIT FOR LIFE: Qualified Austrian masseur specialising in foot reflexology, acupressure, athletic and relaxation massage available every day. Tennis clinics on-going for all levels of play including Junior, Ladies' and Adult sessions with Frank Novak — an experienced Canadian coach and tennis professional.

Classes total 4 weeks in length and meet twice each week. Private coaching also available and fun tennis sessions for the family. Ladies' Keep Fit Classes on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Ladies' Sauna now offers a 50 per cent discount on the usual entrance fee. Ladies' Day on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 9.00 am to 9.00 pm. For details please call: 2530000/8050 (Recreation).

Holiday Inn

AL AHMADI COFFEE SHOP: An ideal venue for that business lunch or a relaxing dinner at the end of the day. Choose from our lavish international buffet (lunch KD5.500 and dinner KD5.750) and then sit back and enjoy the Holiday Inn's excellent service.

Why not treat yourself to our value for money. Breakfast buffet (KD2.500) you can always work off those excess calories at the Holiday Inn fitness centre.

BBC world service highlights

Health Phone-in/Feature

SMOKING, alcohol abuse, drug addiction and diet and heart disease are four controversial health problems being examined on World Service this month. Each week a health feature and a live phone-in will focus on one of these four issues giving listeners the chance to find out more about the facts and put their questions to experts in the studio. Smoking is the first issue to be tackled and Ruth Linton will be joined in the studio by Dr Michael Russell, a leading expert in nicotine addiction, and Dr Martin Raw who describes himself as a smokingologist. Both are involved in counselling and they will be discussing why people start smoking despite the known health risks and how they can give up once they are hooked.

Both Dr Russell and Dr Raw will be in the studio to take part in the live phone-in on Sunday, chaired by Barbara Myers. Listeners who have a question to put to the doctors, either raising a point discussed in the feature or wanting the answer to another problem, can do so by ringing London 379 7444 (outside Britain) or 01 379 0411 (in Britain) between 1315 and 1445 GMT.

Health phone-in/feature: Saturday, February 3 at 14:15

Sunday, February 4 at 17:01
Recommended frequencies: 17.64 MHz/17.01 m
15.07 MHz/19.91 m
11.76 MHz/25.51 m

Health phone-in:

Sunday, February 4 at 17:15
Monday, February 5 at 09:30 and 13:01

Green forms

JEAN BOHT and Rosemary Leach star in this comedy by Alan Bennett. Doris and Doreen work together in an obscure department of a large organisation. It's a cosy existence and work is usually the last thing on their minds. But today is not a normal day and slowly and surely the terrifying shadow of redundancy falls swiftly across their tranquil lives! Sunday, February 4 at 15:01

Omnibus

'MAUS' tells the story of a family of Polish Jews living under Hitler, and is written in the form of a comic strip in which the characters are depicted as mice, cats and pigs. It has been hailed as perhaps the first "graphic novel" to achieve masterpiece status and in this programme its author, Art Spiegelman, talks about his work and the art of the adult comic book.

Tuesday, February 6 at 19:15

Wednesday, February 7 at 13:01
Recommended frequencies: 17.64 MHz/17.01 m
15.07 MHz/19.91 m
11.76 MHz/25.51 m

BUSINESS & FINANCE

W. German shares hit all-time high

FRANKFURT, Feb. 2 (Reuters): Frenzied foreign buying, stoked by signs German unification is getting closer to reality, pushed West German shares to an all-time high today, traders said.

The Dax index of 30 leading West German shares rose 2.2 per cent in the first half hour of bourse trading to exceed the previous high of 1,976.23 reached on January 3.

Overseas buyers continued to push prices higher and at the close the Dax index had gained 52.59 points, or 2.8 per cent, to end at a record 1,910.67. It rose more than 35 points on Thursday.

"Foreign buyers are making this market," one trader said.

Traders said overseas interest had been a driving force since the beginning of the year as investors flooded into the market on a belief that West Germany's economy would be one of the main beneficiaries of the liberalisation of Eastern Europe.

The positive news of the past week, culminating in comments by East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow, had inspired investors to resume buying with renewed enthusiasm.

Earlier this week Modrow spoke out in favour of the eventual reunification of the two Germanys. On Thursday he unveiled a four-step plan for a united, neutral Germany.

The rush to invest in German securities was supported earlier in the week by news that well capitalised Japanese securities houses had recently formed several "Germany" funds and were preparing to set up more such investment vehicles.

Currency dealers in Tokyo have said the yen has been falling against the mark partly because of the investment move. They said the portfolio funds being set up in January to February could total up to some 200 billion yen.

One Frankfurt share trader said domestic buyers were jumping into the market on every new rumour that a major foreign address was buying or preparing to buy.

A share trader said at least one major US brokerage firm was believed to be aiming at increasing the amount of German stocks in its international investment portfolios to five per cent.

Other rumours point to the possibility that major London houses will begin concerted buying some time next week.

But the trader said strong gains were bound to lead to a correction. "We're telling clients interested in good short-term gains to get out of the market next week."

Fake-share scandal

ISTANBUL, Feb. 2 (Reuters): Three men were arrested in Istanbul yesterday on charges of issuing bogus shares in Cukurova Elektrik as electricity company, a bellwether stock on Istanbul's booming stock exchange.

Police said they were suspected of printing about 40,000 fake shares worth some 10 billion liras (\$4.3 million) in Ankara and supplying them to the market since October.

Cukurova Elektrik is the second most actively traded share on the Istanbul Exchange, which has enjoyed an extended bull run since it was opened fully to foreign buyers in August 1989.

Exchange officials said intermediary financial institutions who had traded in the fake shares during the last five days would be liable to pay back to investors who bought them.

Some bankers feared the scandal could have wider implications as the bogus shares were well printed and difficult to detect.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, Feb. 2 (Reuters): The market drifted to a weaker close, pulled down by a sell-off among industrials and mounting concerns about corporate financial problems. The All Ordinaries index fell 1.6 to 1,669.3.

TOKYO: Shares closed sharply higher with index-linked buying once again dominating trade. The Nikkei index rose 443.73 to 37,630.15.

HONG KONG: Blue chips recovered most of their losses on the day after active buying support emerged in afternoon trading. The Hang Seng index ended only 1.69 points lower at 2,736.55 after plunging more than 40 points in late morning.

SINGAPORE: The exchange posted a record turnover for the second day, with 228.2 million shares traded by the close. The Straits Times industrial index rose 20.30 to 1,549.13.

BOMBAY: Share prices fell sharply on late long liquidation. The Bombay Stock Exchange index fell 7.93 points to 684.48.

FRANKFURT: A new wave of foreign buying pushed German share prices to new all time highs. The Dax index gained 52.59 points to end at a record 1,910.67.

Group will have to expand its capacity: Subroto

Opec feels the pinch as oil demand rises

LONDON, Feb. 2 (Reuters): Opec, once the richest organisation in history, says it does not have enough money to produce the extra oil that the world may need in years to come.

The oil industry faces the prospect of colossal investment to meet a predicted rise in demand as the world economy expands. The most likely result for factory owner and car driver alike is higher prices.

"Sooner or later there will be an almighty crunch," said Geoff Pyne, an energy economist with London-based finance house UBS Phillips and Drew. "Demand is going up. Refining capacity is not. Expect higher prices."

In the latest surprise, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) announced it is short of the money which it will need to expand its capacity to produce crude oil.

An ageing world tanker fleet is also due for renewal, at up to \$80 million for a new ship. Many of the West's dated and accident-prone oil refineries need revamping.

The industry, however, remains wary of sizeable long term investment for fear that, as has happened before, the predicted rise in oil demand may prove fickle.

Some industry executives say privately that they cannot wholly discount a risk that governments may act later in the 1990s to curb oil demand from environmental reasons by slapping higher taxes on petroleum. And oil prices are volatile.

The industry's quandary follows the Opec price shocks of the 1970s which depressed demand, created a glut and led to weaker prices in the mid-1980s. Those discouraged investment. Opec

oil wells rusted in. Companies shut many refineries or curtailed spending on those which they kept open.

Stimulated by weaker prices and global economic expansion, demand is now back where it was before the glut. But the crude oil output of the biggest producers, the Soviet Union and United States is sliding, so that buyers must increasingly go to Opec.

Subroto of Indonesia, Opec secretary-general, says the group will have to expand its capacity to pump oil from 26 or 27 million barrels per day now to 32 million by decade-end.

He puts the cost of doing that at \$60 billion or one-tenth of Opec annual revenues.

"External sources of finance will have to be added to Opec revenues. And this investment must be made now," he said on a recent visit to Tokyo.

Japan, with great wealth but totally reliant on imported oil, is viewed by Opec nations as a potential partner.

Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazer was another recent visitor.

Saudi Arabia is looking for joint ventures which would add it to a hitherto-protected "downstream" refining and marketing end of the business in Japan, according to Japanese sources.

"I think Japan will put up some money," said Geoff Pyne. "They would be buying a degree of energy security and you have to remember that the alternative might be higher prices."

Japan's Arabian Oil Company already produces a tiny quantity of Saudi crude under a concession covering a neutral zone which the Saudis share with Kuwait.

The Gulf Arab states, also including Kuwait and Iraq, control some 65 per

cent of world oil reserves and will be called on to meet most extra demand in the 1990s, according to such officials as Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul-Rahim Al Chalabi.

That poses a problem for consumers, since US and other Western refiners are short of plant — so-called upgraded or conversion capacity — to process Middle East crude oils.

Most of these are "sour" grades. They contain more sulphur which must be removed to meet tightening environmental rules and yield less petrol, unless specially treated, than scarcer "sweet" or light oils from Texas, Africa and the North Sea.

"Few new refineries are being built anywhere in the world today and none at all in the US and Europe," according to Paul Miotok who follows oil for

Morgan Stanley and Co. Inc.

"A world-scale refinery could cost \$2 billion and, even if the money were available, environmental concerns would prohibit construction in most industrial nations."

One to nation have spent upwards of \$4.5 billion — on upgrading its refineries has been Kuwait which produces a sour variety of crude oil.

The pacesetter Kuwaitis are now turning their attention to their tanker fleet, announcing plans to build 11 new vessels in a belief that it makes sense to get orders in fast.

The chairman of the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company, Abdel Fattah Al Badr, says there is now a world-wide surplus of oil about 40 ships. With yards booked up for two to three years ahead, he says that rising oil production will drive up freight rates.

Crisis deepens

Kuwait hotels suffer setback

KUWAIT, Feb. 2 (Kuna): Hotel industry in Kuwait has been suffering from serious economic difficulties that substantially contributed to drop in revenues and led to big losses in the past decade, a senior hotel official disclosed here today.

The chairman of Hotels Owners Union Ghazi Fahd Al Nafissi, interviewed by Kuna said the crisis dates back to 1980 and was a direct result of the Gulf war between Iraq and Iran and its ensuing negative effects.

He emphasised that luxury hotels were forced to reduce accommodation rates per room

to an average of KD12 to 15 per night from about KD30 before the year 1980 a matter that led to huge decrease in gross profits.

Al Nafissi pointed out that the union, aware of the problem and acknowledging the fact that hotels cannot afford to meet basic costs of rendering their service, has prepared studies and necessary proposals for resolving the crisis and submitted them to concerned governmental bodies to adopt appropriate remedy.

He said the crisis went beyond imagination and under pressure

of growing hardship, the union in 1983 shouldered the responsibility of protecting its members and reached an agreement among all hotels on a minimum rate per room by which all members were expected to abide by its rules to stabilise prices.

The official noted, however, the average minimum rate agreed upon was less than prices before 1980 and some members cheated and did not commit themselves to the agreement, thus creating chaos regarding rates that brought prices down to only between KD7 to 10 per room a day.

Such rate, Al Nafissi said, could not enable hotels even to meet operating expenditures or rising prices in this connection. He said hotels were also incapable of making any new extension or renovational works to promote services.

Proposing solution to the problem, Al Nafissi said concerned bodies should stop issuing licences for opening new hotels and that all buildings exploited as furnished and hired flats should be closed down because, in one way or other they were catering activities pertaining to hotels.

Gold proposal may get talks moving

IMF refunding talks stalled

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 (Reuters): Talks on new International Monetary Fund financing, stalled because of US concern over unpaid loans to the fund, may get moving again as a result of a US proposal to sell gold to make up the amount.

Monetary sources said the talks had been trading water because the United States had signalled to other members of the IMF's executive board that a new proposal was in the works.

The board, which convenes again today on the quota talks, will take up the US proposal, which calls for mobilising IMF gold reserves to deal with the problem of unpaid loans.

The sources said it was unlikely that any kind of an agreement could be forged by the end of the week and talks would probably continue next week.

In many ways, the arrears problem is a minor issue, although the decision by the United States to link it to the quota increase has radically changed its importance.

"When you look at the overall discussions, the arrears issue doesn't seem all that important," said one source.

The IMF currently has resources totalling \$120 billion and the lending agency's managing director, Michel Camdessus, has argued that they should be dou-

Cairo set to meet IMF demands

CAIRO, Feb. 2 (Reuters): President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, which has an estimated \$50-billion foreign debt, appears set to meet International Monetary Fund (IMF) requirements for quick economic reforms.

Egyptian newspapers reported yesterday that Mubarak stressed 10 points for structural economic reform during an exceptional three-hour meeting with 29 high-level economists and banking experts, and former and current cabinet ministers.

The Wednesday meeting included discussions of key IMF demands on interest rates, Egypt's subsidies of basic goods and the state of the Egyptian pound.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Maguid, who returned from a Washington visit nine days ago with IMF plans for reform, said an IMF team was expected in Cairo soon.

The economists stressed a necessity to cut bureaucratic red tape to boost exports, build citizens' trust in banks by ensuring confidentiality of accounts, decrease dependency on the public sector and strengthen the private sector.

Mubarak said his government would maintain a gradual approach to reform, a point of contention between Egypt and the IMF pressing for a large increase in interest rates and a devaluation of the Egyptian pound.

Egypt stopped most repayments on its foreign debt 18 months ago and needs an IMF agreement to reschedule part of it.

bled in order for the agency to deal with its increasing responsibilities.

These include the festering debt crisis, vast poverty in Africa and Eastern Europe coming into the economic mainstream.

The United States had taken the position that a 35 per cent increase would be sufficient although it had indicated that it might be willing to go up to 45 per cent. Most other countries have said they favour an increase of 65 per cent or more.

The sources said that most countries seem to believe that in the end, the agreement will provide for about 50 per cent increase or perhaps a bit more.

The arrears problem involves 11 countries with delinquent payments totalling \$3.76 billion. They are Guyana, Honduras, Cambodia, Liberia, Panama, Peru, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Vietnam and Zambia.

The IMF, under its policies, does not consider a country to formally be in a non-paying status until the payments are six months behind.

Mexico faces hardships

Debt accord to be signed Sunday

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 2 (Reuters): Mexico signs what is being billed as a landmark debt accord with its commercial creditors on Sunday but critics say the pact will not defuse the time bomb of economic crisis ticking beneath the country's economy.

The agreement, the first under the so-called Brady plan proposed last March 10 by US Treasury secretary Nicholas Brady, provides about \$3.8 billion in annual debt relief over the next four years, according to official government figures.

The Brady plan sought for the first time to use official finance, mostly from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, to encourage a reduction in commercial bank debt of highly indebted nations which have agreed to economic reform.

It changes the emphasis of international debt strategy away from new bank lending towards easing the debt burden.

Independent analysts say \$3.8 billion is barely enough to tide the country over while it seeks new foreign investment and coaxes back capital that has fled since the debt crisis and faltering confidence in the economy emerged in 1982.

The pact cuts Mexico's \$48 billion of medium and long term debt by \$7 billion and trims debt services by \$2.2

billion in 1990, \$1.5 billion yearly thereafter. It also provides \$1.5 billion in new loans over the next three years but falls far short of credits Mexico expected.

President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has tried to use the pact to restore confidence in Mexico by saying it marks the beginning of the end of the debt crisis. But many analysts say it is little more than breathing space on a long, uphill road to recovery.

"The debt still represents a major burden on the Mexican economy... Mexico will most likely have to return to the negotiating table at some point, it may be in five or 10 years," said economist Jonathan Heath of Macro Asesoría Económica.

Health, like other private sector analysts, expressed concern over estimates that Mexico registered a \$5.5 billion current account deficit last year.

Salinas, who took office in December, 1988, launched a wage and price stabilisation plan credited with cutting inflation from 160 per cent in 1987 to less than 20 per cent last year.

But monthly consumer inflation rates have climbed since October, registering 2.9 per cent in the first two weeks of January, and real interest rates remain high.

Strike lifted

Air traffic controllers return to work

MANILA, Feb. 2 (UPI): Striking air traffic controllers, threatened with dismissal under presidential emergency powers, returned to work today after a 24-hour walkout that disrupted domestic and international flights.

The 280-member Air Traffic Controllers' Union said the decision to return to work was made after negotiations that lasted until midnight Thursday with transportation and communications secretary Oscar Orbus.

"Yes, he threatened to fire us," union spokesman Arnold Abad said in an interview with radio station DZmm.

The government's granting of some concessions also was a factor in the union's lifting of the strike, Abad said. Orbus promised to grant demands for pay raises and adjustments in the recently promulgated wage standardisation law that in effect demoted senior controllers' ratings, he said.

Abad said controllers in the Philippines receive an average of \$227 a month, far below international rates. "We understand our economic situation, and they said they would try to do

something about it," he said.

President Corason Aquino is empowered under the national emergency powers act to order a swift end to strikes affecting vital services.

The act was passed by the Congress after a bloody coup attempt Dec 1-9 and was promulgated to ease the impact of the uprising, the sixth and most serious attempt to oust Aquino in her nearly four years as president.

The one-day strike effectively grounded domestic services at the country's 43 airports. It did not affect international flights during the day, but operations at Manila's international airport suspended in the evening.

"We're back to normal now," Philippine Airlines spokesman Rolando Estabillo said today.

The strike was the second by the Air Traffic Controllers in four months. The controllers went on strike Oct 7, paralyzing domestic and international flights, but returned to work seven hours later after Aquino promised to look into their complaints.

Third largest tanker fleet

NICOSIA, Feb. 2 (Reuters): Iran says it has the third largest tanker fleet in the world following the recommissioning of vessels attacked by Iraq during the Gulf war.

Managing director of the National Iranian Tanker Company Mohammad Soori was quoted by the Iranian news agency Irna as saying Iran owned 28 tankers and 32 other ships, supported by 35 chartered tankers and 34 non-tanker charter vessels.

Irna, received in Nicosia on Thursday, quoted Soori as saying that in the year ended March 20, 1989, the fleet carried 92 million tonnes of cargo.

He said Iran attacked Iranian tankers 134 times between 1982 and 1988 — the Gulf war began in September, 1980 — and that 26 war-damaged ships had rejoined the fleet since a ceasefire came into force in August, 1988.

Soori said that in the last four years of the war a total of 2.5 billion barrels of crude and refined oil was shipped to what he termed secure areas and delivered to buyers.

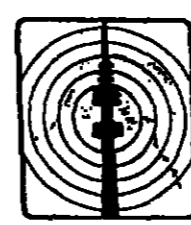
During the war Iran shuttled oil from its besieged Kharg island terminal at the head of the Gulf to a number of mother ships moored in safer areas at the mouth of the strategic waterway.

Oil prices mixed

NEW YORK, Feb. 2 (UPI): Oil prices ended mixed in a light, directionless market yesterday with many traders away from the trading pits to attend the annual dinner of the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Aggressive early gasoline buying by a large New York trader helped support the gasoline and crude markets despite a government report showing large inventory builds last week, said Larry Lawrence of Elders Futures Inc. in New York.

Unleaded gasoline rose 0.09 cent to 62.70 cents a gallon in the Merc's first day of trading the March delivery contract.



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Mobile Telephone Systems Co. (K.S.C.)

ANNOUNCEMENT

T.D. 1/90

Tender for the supply of Numeric Display Pagers

Mobile Telephone Systems Co. (K.S.C.) invites specialised contractors in the field of Paging Systems and Pagers who wish to participate in the above tender to collect tender documents from the Company's Head Office located on the 5th Floor, Souk Al Kabir Building, Fahed Al Salem Street, Kuwait City, from the date of this announcement and subject to the following conditions:

1. Tender Document Fees KD 50,000, non-refundable.
2. 12:00 noon, Monday March 5, 1990 is the closing date for delivering the offers to the Technical Department in the Head Office of the Company.

Few firms likely to dominate Eurodefence industry

LONDON, Feb. 2 (Reuters): By storm and by stealth, the companies that make Western Europe's military hardware are changing shape and defence industry watchers estimate that by the year 2000 just two or three groups will dominate production.

By then they will have enough muscle to tackle the biggest projects, bolstered by enough civilian work to cushion them against any defence cuts that may emerge from easing global tensions.

Hostile bids, share stake acquisitions and joint ventures have already built up the positions of half a dozen Western European companies in recent years in the aerospace and electronics sectors.

"You have got to be big to win, and you have got to have a diverse range of products," said Nick Cook, aviation editor of the authoritative British-based Jane's Defence Weekly.

General Electric Co Plc of Britain has swept

through British defence electronics. Last week it agreed to buy the radar operations of heavily indebted Ferranti International Plc for £310 million (\$522 million).

This strengthened GEC's hand in European defence electronics, giving it a near monopoly in UK airborne radar.

Six months before GEC realised a 10-year ambition by carving up British defence electronics group Plessey with West Germany's Siemens AG after a hard fought bid battle. The final price for Plessey was £1.7 billion (\$2.9 billion).

British Aerospace Plc (BAE) said on Tuesday it would go ahead with its Eurodynamics joint venture with state-controlled French giant Thomson-CSF.

The venture will be Europe's largest missile contractor, with annual sales of £1.4 billion (\$2.35 billion). Thomson, which had considered taking over both to Ferranti and Plessey, is

GEC's major rival in European defence electronics.

"Thomson appears hungry for acquisitions in Europe," said Chris Tucker, electronics analyst at brokers Kitchell and Aikens.

Underlying the frenzied pace of developments are the rising costs and complexity of arms projects and the expectation that they must meet West European requirements for at least two decades, probably much more with extended life programmes.

"The big projects all seem to have matured at the same time," Cook said.

The £37 billion European Fighter Aircraft (EFA) for Britain, West Germany, Italy and Spain illustrates the poor outlook for new orders once present projects are under way.

"The next big (warplane) business after EFA will be the Tornado replacement, from about 2010," said Tasha, aerospace shares analyst at brokers Robert Fleming Securities said in

reference to another West European joint project now in service.

Industry sources see this compounded by fears of cuts in programmes because of perceptions of a declining military threat from the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact bloc.

All West Germany's main political parties plan to review purchases of the European fighter after national elections in December. A German cancellation could sink the whole project.

"There is a worse than even chance of EFA going into production," said Jane's Cook.

He added that, while multi-nation projects spread costs, they also increase the risk of undermining the economics when one partner pulls out for political or financial reasons.

Thus, a strong leg in civilian sales and not being too dependent on any one project cushions the impact if programmes are cancelled.



McDonald goes Russian

Vladimir Malyshev (centre) grand opening of the first McDonald's restaurant in the Soviet Union in Moscow on Jan. 31. He is being helped by George A. Cohen (left), president of McDonald's restaurant of Canada Ltd. (Reuter wirephoto)

Woman's bid to revive socialism

Lone crusader

OTTAWA, (Reuters): She has managed a mink farm, taught school in West Africa and toiled as a big city social worker. But with the political left on the run in many parts of the world, her toughest task yet might be leading North America's only mainstream Socialist Party out of the political doldrums.

Audrey McLaughlin took over the left-wing New Democratic Party (NDP) in December, becoming the first woman ever to head a national Canadian political party. But the tall, quick-witted 53-year-old politician faces a daunting task reviving the party after winning a bitter leadership contest. "Her main task is to resolve some of the deep divisions within the party," said John Meisel, a political scientist with Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.

In its 58-year history, the NDP has led several provincial governments in Canada but has never won more than 20 per cent of the national vote.

Political conscience

The NDP has long been seen as the political conscience of Canada. Other parties, mostly the liberals, poached many of their progressive proposals, including a national health care system, unemployment insurance and a family assistance scheme.

Coinciding with the rise of international socialism in the 1930s, the party was founded as the co-operative commonwealth federation by a group of Western prairie farmers disgruntled with capitalism during the great depression.

In 1961 the regional party joined with powerful labour unions in central Canada to form the NDP in an attempt to become a truly national force.

After years of futility in federal elections, the NDP appeared to be on the verge of a breakthrough in 1987. Support for the party soared to a record 40 per cent in a Gallup poll while backing slumped for the ruling conservatives.

However, hopes for an NDP breakthrough were dashed in the 1988 elections when Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's Conservatives won re-election and the NDP failed in its bid to win a district in the crucial province of Quebec.

While the NDP did win a party-record 43 seats in the 295-seat House of Commons, leader Ed Broadbent announced shortly after the election that he would step down after 14 years at the helm.

No one's choice

McLaughlin initially appeared to be no one's first choice and her slim two years in the House of Commons was seen as a strike against her. But there was growing praise for her varied and decidedly leftist background, which one veteran party summed up as "a lot of life experience."

An only child who grew up in the industrial city of Windsor, Ontario, McLaughlin raised two children while helping her husband to manage a mink farm in the province.

In the 1960s McLaughlin and her family moved to Ghana, where she taught English to schoolchildren before returning to Canada and becoming a social worker with the Children's Aid Society in Toronto.

Shortly after divorcing her husband in 1979, she packed up a pick-up truck and drive with her son and daughter to the rough and tumble town of Whitehorse in the Yukon territory.

In 1987 she won a special federal by-election, taking the Yukon district that Conservatives had held for years. She then won re-election in the 1988 general election.

Political analysts say that with the crumbling of communism in Eastern Europe and the general questioning of socialist ideals, McLaughlin's toughest task will be to stake out new ground to unite the party and attract voters.

"There is no clear vision of what a social democrat society should be like anymore," said Fred Fletcher, a political scientist at Toronto's York University.

But McLaughlin has won early praise for her poise in the boisterous House of Commons and is promising to be an articulate critic of Mulroney.

She is a staunch critic of the year-old free trade deal with the United States and speaks out on women's issues — on abortion she favours freedom of choice.

Despite the current disillusionment with the left, analysts say, politics and people's attitudes can change quickly.

"These people make their own world to some extent," Meisel said. "I would write her off just yet."

Banking babies DNA debated

WASHINGTON, (UPI): Shortly after a baby bursts into the world, a doctor takes a half-teaspoon of the newborn's blood and ships it off for 15 years of refrigerated storage in a genetic "bank."

The scene is not science fiction. It could happen now. Many parents will soon have to decide whether to bank genetic material should replace heel pricks and baby bracelets as the definitive form of child identification.

Lifebank Inc., an affiliate of Lifecodes Corp., a Valhalla, New York, a leading proponent of DNA "fingerprinting" has just established what it calls "the world's first private DNA identity storage centre."

DNA or deoxyribonucleic acid is the genetic material that makes up our chromosomes and bears the blueprint for all life. With advertisements in parents and American baby magazines, Lifebank views its main market as the parents of children under age 10, particularly newborns. "Lifebank provides parents with the secure knowledge that at any time in the future, they can identify their child," said Walter Fredericks, the firm's president.

But the American Civil Liberties Union and a leading pediatrician warn genetic banking could open a Pandora's box. At the very least, genetic banks appear to be a waste of money, critics say, and at the worst, children's genetic information could fall into the wrong hands.

"What this is doing is playing on parents' fears and anxieties," said Dr Gerald Gilchrist, chairman of pediatrics at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Given the extremely low odds of a baby being swapped with another or being kidnapped by a

stranger, Gilchrist said he would rather parents spend money on books or other necessities for their children than on genetic banking.

It costs \$200 for collection of one blood sample and 15 years of storage at Lifebank. That payment does not include the approximately \$650 expense of actually comparing the sample's DNA pattern with another sample should an identity question arise, said Karen Wexler, Lifebank's technical services manager.

Wexler said Lifebank's drying and refrigeration techniques "guarantee an 18-year DNA stability" for the blood samples, and would be difficult to duplicate at home.

If done properly, DNA typing or "fingerprinting" compares the genetic material from two sources, and if their chemical patterns match, estimates the chance of such a match occurring by chance. Wexler said her firm believes its chance of wrongly matching one person's DNA with another individual's is "one in a billion."

But many scientists think DNA fingerprinting is far less reliable. And some judges have recently refused to allow DNA "evidence" in criminal trials.

Laboratory mistakes, like contamination, mislabeling and erroneous "readings" of DNA patterns, can create mixups that could devastate lives. Lack of knowledge about genetic patterns among ethnic or geographic groups that tend to intermarry, as well as the ability of DNA patterns to "blend" are other reasons genetic typing should be used with caution.

Janlori Goldman, an ACLU lawyer specializing in privacy and technology issues, said, "I would tell parents to give this a lot of careful thought — that this may be more of a gimmick than it is a help."

Goldman emphasised a DNA print is not the same as a fingerprint because it tells far more about a person than just identity. DNA sampling can be used to determine risk of developing certain diseases, like cystic fibrosis, or to link a person to a crime by hair, blood or semen found at the scene.

"I don't think we should really be moving forward in getting DNA prints on infants if we don't know how that information will be used later," Goldman said.

Lifebank officials said only parents or legal guardians of a child will have access to a genetic sample, which will be labelled with a secret code, not a name. And if anyone else, like law enforcement officials or insurance companies, tries to obtain the sample, "Lifebank will go to court to protect the confidentiality," Wexler said.

In addition to children, Lifebank also promotes its banks as a way of storing DNA samples of people at high-risk for disfiguring accidents, such as airline pilots and soldiers. Such samples could help identify bodies or the critically injured following a disaster like an airplane crash, the company said.

Although Lifebank has no exact projections of expected sales, Wexler said, "we estimate the potential to be a billion dollar opportunity."

The ACLU's Goldman commented, "they are capitalising on people's fear. It's an expensive technique and this profit-making organisation is trying to get doctors to sell it to people."

Under the Lifebank plan, all blood collections must take place at a hospital or doctor's office.

The ACLU's current position is that DNA fingerprinting should be used only when there is a person to believe the person being tested is a suspect in an ongoing criminal investigation.

Best sellers

Wall Street tales

NEW YORK, (Reuters): After a decade of popular books like "Liar's Poker" and "Barbarians at the Gate," the art of the deal as it is called by business leaders, the 1990s are opening with literary blockbusters painting a less flattering picture of the world of big business.

"Liar's Poker," a current best-seller, is a scathing account of life at the Salomon Brothers Investment House by one of its former bond salesmen, Michael Lewis.

Also in the publishing top ten is "Barbarians at the Gate: The Fall of RJR Nabisco," a vivid tale of the \$25 billion buyout of RJR Nabisco Inc., which makes and sells everything from cigarettes to biscuits.

Written by two reporters for the Wall Street Journal, the book depicts investment bankers and corporate executives jousting for a piece of the record-setting deal.

"We made a concerted effort to write a book that would let people understand what some of the craziness was about," said Bryan Burroughs, who wrote "Barbarians at the Gate" with John Helyar.

Lewis, who studied at the London School of Economics, said in remarks released by his publisher: "People on Wall Street lived in a suspended state of self-intoxication. They stood on top of desks and shouted, 'I am a God.'"

"Liar's Poker" is part of a recent rash of books and films taking a critical view of capitalism in the 1980s.

These included Tom Wolfe's "Bonfire of the Vanities," a fictional account of a corrupt bond trader, and "Roger and Me," a film about the impact of General Motors' decision to lay off thousands of workers at its factory in Flint, Michigan.

"What's new is that there has been a spate of books about Wall Street. Without exception, they have been quite critical," said Samuel Hayes, a professor of investment banking at Harvard Business School.

Hayes contends that main street's view of Wall Street has hardened. Americans, while admiring entrepreneurs, retain a populist suspicion of concentrated sources of power, he said.

"The rash of mergers and acquisitions affected many people and made it appear that Wall Street had been jerking the public around on a string," he said. Insider-trading prosecutions fanned that suspicion, he added.

Some of capitalism's excesses, like the extraordinary earnings of "junk-bond" king Michael Milken, dismayed the public.

"There are limits on anything, and earnings that can be considered a reward for laudable hard work and innovative thinking at some point begin to look obscene," Hayes said.

Steven Wasserman, executive editor at Doubleday, said books like "Liar's Poker" and "Barbarians at the Gate" are popular partly because Americans have tired of what they viewed as Wall Street's excesses.

"There's a sense that enough was enough," said Wasserman. "I don't think human events can be cut into decades, but I do think that beginning with the arrest of Ivan Boesky, the zeitgeist has shifted a little bit."

Boesky, a stock speculator, was indicted in 1986 for insider-trading, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to prison.

Wasserman said "Liar's Poker" and "Barbarians" are insiders' tales written with an anthropologist's attention to human behaviour. "They examine the rituals in place behind America's closed doors," he said.

Todd Gitlin, professor of sociology at the University of California at Berkeley and a chronicler of Popular Culture, said two myths dominate the literature of American business. One involves the rugged individualist folk hero who sets off to seek his fortune and finds it.

attitudes are changing.

"The Turkish people love Hollywood action and adventure films," Basaran said, "and we like musicals, too. We have grown more liberal when it comes to the sex, nudity and violence of American movies. Those elements were once heavily censored. Now only certain nude scenes are clipped out."

"There is more concern about such things in the villages where more censorship is exercised. In the cities, we see films without major censorship."

"American films are subtitled in Turkish, which is helping Turkish learn English, and that is good."

Love-match stars defy the age gap

HOLLYWOOD has never been famous for its happy marriages. Celebrities seem even more prone than most to broken relationships and bitter divorces. And when movie couples have to cope with the added problems of a wide age gap, their unions seem doomed from the start.

But there are a few love matches which are proving the cynics wrong. Everyone said it would never last but Juliet Mills, 47, and 29-year-old Colby's star Maxwell Caulfield have been happily married for nine years.

Juliet, daughter of Sir John Mills, was never worried about the 18-year age difference. Maxwell always made me feel so secure and so safe," she says.

"He seemed to love everything about me, even the things I didn't particularly love about myself."

"Age just didn't seem to come into it."

"When he asked me to marry him, six weeks after we'd met, I said yes, without any question in my mind about whether I was doing the right thing. I never weighed it up — I was never sure of anything in my life."

Maxwell admits he likes the attention. "I enjoyed it, all those headlines about being a toy boy! There was a certain experience in Juliet's past that I admired, and there's a side of me that enjoyed making the headlines."

He had never thought about marriage before working with Juliet ten years ago while on an American stage tour of the Elephant Man. He says: "I suddenly realised that life was a lot better with her, that sharing the good times with somebody you cared for was a lot more enriching than a solitary existence."

They have no doubts about their marriage lasting. Maxwell reveals: "Juliet is my best friend. There's a gentleness about her, a vulnerability, that makes me want to take care of her — coupled with an extraordinary strength. With Juliet you get the best of two worlds. It's all chemistry. It's been right, and I'm sure it will continue to be."

While Maxwell and Juliet can claim many similar interests, Columbo star Peter Falk admits that he has nothing in common with his wife, who is 24 years his junior.

The 61-year-old actor married former beauty queen and dancer Sheri Dandene in 1977. He says: "If anyone asks Sheri what we have in common, she always replies: 'We both like the colour blue.'"

Falk continues: "My wife is vivacious, never shuts up and likes to go to parties. So, compared to her, I'm a gloomy son of a gun."

He claims they split up every six months, but after 12 years of marriage he is confident they will stay together.

Falk says: "There's a definite chasm in interests. That's why we are getting divorced every six months or so. But fortunately, we can't get in sync. If we both

wanted a divorce at the same time, we'd be in big trouble." He jokes: "I think we're stuck with each other. I don't see any way out!"

Actress and singer Pia Zadora was only 21 when she married 48-year-old billionaire Meshulam Riklis. The diminutive blonde says: "I was a sheltered Catholic girl, and maybe I married so young because I wanted to get out of the nest and become a woman. Today, maybe I would have experimented, but my husband was the first... and the last. I hope."

"We don't think about the age difference. He's 59 now — and holding."

Although Pia did not see the 27 year age difference as a problem, she was criticised and branded a fortune hunter when she married Riklis. The critics said she was



Bill Wyman with wife Mandy Smith.



Sophia, 55, says: "I haven't looked at another man since I met Carlo. I am very happy with my marriage. I only wish all marriages in showbusiness could be as happy."

When asked what she sees in the short, fat Ponti, who is now 77, she replies: "Nothing that bears any relationship to looks or age, but a sensitive lover, a cultivated companion, the father I never had. He's not glamorous but he is a man with a capital M."

Now that she is older the Oscar-winning actress believes



Top left: Riklis with singer-wife Pia Zadora. (bottom left) Sophia Loren with Carlo Ponti in 1962. Right, Cyndi Lauper with Peter Falk (centre) and Jeff Goldblum.



using his money to get into films and that the marriage would never last.

But 11 years later Pia is now recognised as a talented actress and singer in her own right. And the couple are still together, now raising their two young children.

Pia, 32, says: "Age is a matter of the mind. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter."

Actress Sophia Loren agrees, and despite an age gap of 22 years she has been happily married to Italian film producer Carlo Ponti since she was 23.

that the age gap is no longer important. When they met he was more than twice her age. But now that she is middle-aged the gap seems to have narrowed. She says: "At first, because of our difference in age, it was hard for us to discuss my contracts, my

that the age gap is no longer important. When they met he was more than twice her age. But now that she is middle-aged the gap seems to have narrowed. She says: "At first, because of our difference in age, it was hard for us to discuss my contracts, my

Turkish film-maker sees 'Midnight Express' as darkest hour

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): The worst thing to happen to Turkey since the fall of the Ottoman Empire was the movie "Midnight Express."

The 1978 film dealing with a young, arrogant American dope smuggler incarcerated in prison depicted Turkey as the hellhole of the world, its inhabitants as sadistic murderers, its officials as cruelly corrupt.

Now comes a movie from Turkey, the first ever entered for consideration for an Academy Award for best foreign language film.

Titled "Don't Let Them Shoot the Kite," the story is set, alas, in a Turkish prison, as was most of "Midnight Express."

This time, however, the prison is not a figment of Hollywood's imagination. Also, this time the director was not Alan Parker but Tunc Basaran, a distinguished Turkish filmmaker.

Basaran, soft-spoken and gentle in nature, was accompanied to Hollywood recently by his wife, Jale, who was art director of "Don't Let Them Shoot the Kite."

Their story deals with a 4-year-old boy who is imprisoned with his mother (a not uncommon practice in Turkey) and is befriended by another female inmate, a political prisoner. They form a touching bond.

The picture has won awards in festivals in Turkey, Montreal, Sweden, Greece and Portugal.

"Midnight Express" was very terrible for our country," Basaran said. "It was a disaster for us. It portrayed Turkey and its 60 million citizens in a very bad light throughout the world."

"There wasn't a single Turk in the picture the audience could sympathise with."

Basaran does not portray his native land as heaven on earth, but he very much resented Parker's treatment of Turkey, which he thinks was grossly unfair and misleading.

Some 100 films a year are made in Turkey with budgets ranging up to \$200,000. They are exhibited almost exclusively in Turkey, but the Basarans hope "Don't Let Them Shoot the Kite" will find wider distribution, including in the United States.

Their picture manages to project some criticism of the Turkish government, which would not have been possible in the recent past.

"It's not uncommon these days for Turkish films to criticise the political system," he said, "but essentially my film is a tender and unusual love story. It would mean a great deal for the

Turkish film industry if our picture is accepted in other countries. Our motion pictures are limited by our budgets. If I were given \$1 million to make a picture, I would use the money to make four films."

"Because financing is so difficult, our stories are limited to personal human relationships. It is too expensive to make action or adventure films that require large cities, elaborate sets and fancy costumes."

"I believe our film depicts our people and customs in a fair and accurate light, but that was not the intention. The relationship between the boy and

the woman is something that could take place in any country of the world."

"It is not true in the United States, I understand, but in many countries a child born of a woman prisoner continues to live with his mother until she has served her sentence. It's a terrible thing for a child."

Although "Midnight Express" was never distributed in Turkey, some 200 American movies are exhibited in that nation annually.

Because Turkey is a Muslim country, it has traditionally observed more puritanical film standards than Europe or the United States, but

attitudes are changing. "The Turkish people love Hollywood action and adventure films," Basaran said, "and we like musicals, too. We have grown more liberal when it comes to the sex, nudity and violence of American movies. Those elements were once heavily censored. Now only certain nude scenes are clipped out."

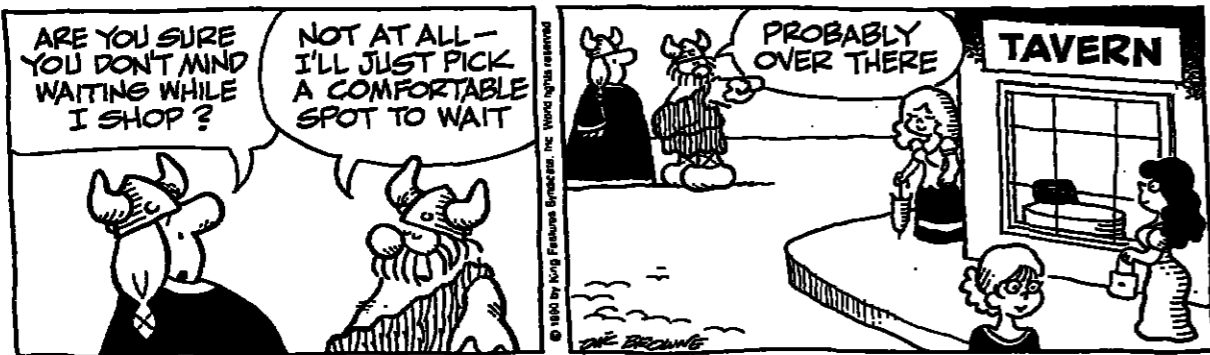
"There is more concern about such things in the villages where more censorship is exercised. In the cities, we see films without major censorship."

"American films are subtitled in Turkish, which is helping Turkish learn English, and that is good."

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



NAGAR THE HORRIBLE



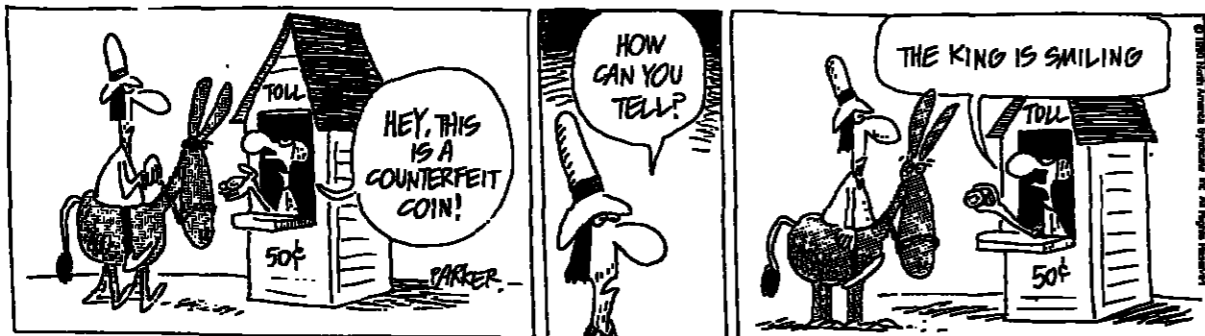
MATHY CROWN



BEETLEBAILEY



THE WIZARD OF ID — By Bob Parker & John Hart



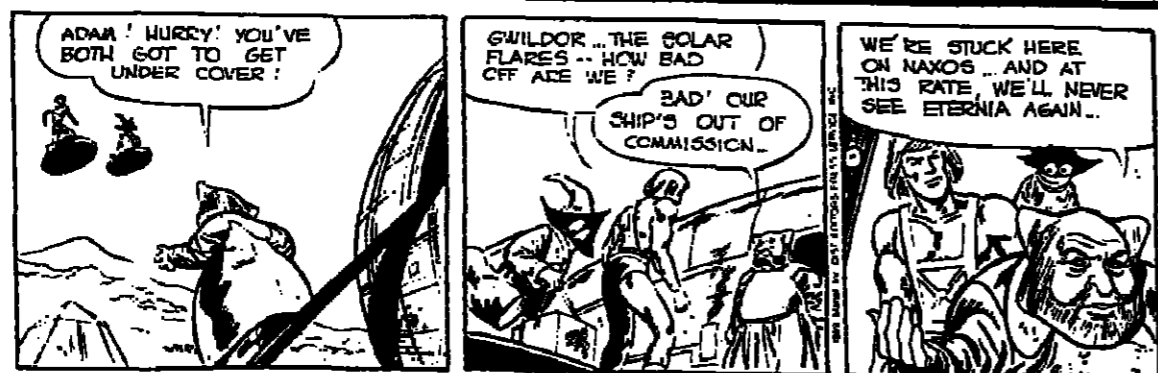
ANDY CAPP



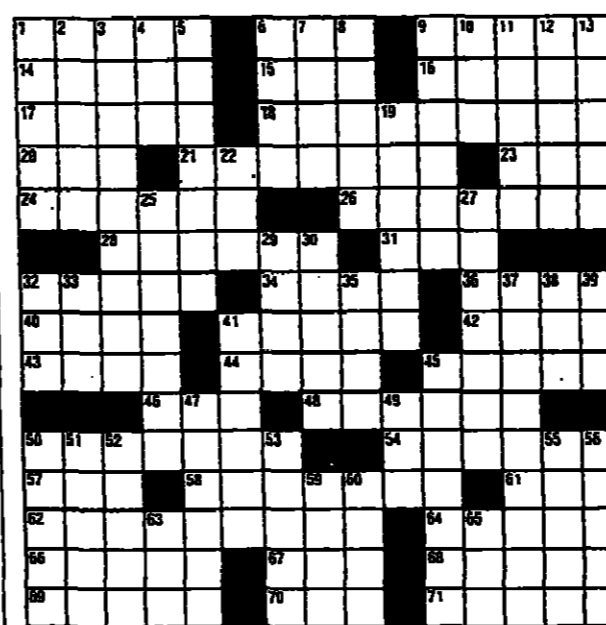
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- 1 Hemmed
6 Stitch
9 Resign or relinquish
14 Wooded place
15 Mary Todd's mate
16 Rust
17 Romeo and Juliet
18 Forty-niner, for one
20 Finish
21 SRO patron
23 Musician's need
24 Home for a brave: Var.
26 Barely sufficient
28 Sea nymph
31 Chemical ending
32 Insertion mark
34 Frame of mind
36 Self-images
40 Aroma
41 Bill of fare
42 Accomplished
43 Mother of Castor
44 Give forth
45 Cockpit commander
46 Kind of father or mother
48 Attained great heights
50 Plant with blue flowers
54 County in NW Pennsylvania
57 Bird: Comb. form
58 Settles down, in a way
61 Simple sugar.
62 Rainbow's end
64 Gladden
66 Fragrant resin
67 Louis XIV.
- DOWN
- 1 Plumed bird
2 Male bee
3 Kentucky state flower
4 Palindromic name
5 Sweet course
6 Larger than life account
7 Black, to a poet
8 Soldiers
9 Lower in standing
10 Lincoln's "Cap'n"
11 Painter of water lilies
12 Perfect "10"
13 English actor — Thomas
19 Make a choice
22 Links location
25 Members of the House of Lords
27 Requiring more
29 Moslem priest
30 A Day or a Duke
32 Pike's Peak st.
33 Lemon additive
35 Palindromic name
37 Ghana, formerly
38 Yoko
39 Word with coffee or tea
41 Giving up
45 Gift
47 Synthetic polymer
49 Electricity abbr.
50 Jacket feature
51 Convex molding
52 Puppy, at times
53 Future oak
55 A Launder
56 Marsh plants
59 Cosmetic ingredient
60 DCLII twice
63 Where an Eastender's 'earth is
65 Card game

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

LATE USER SOHO
BRAIN SAGE TRAP
JUXTAPPOSES RANI
NIECE ESTRANGE
NORA TROY
CONTRAS IT'S NOT
AKEEN SAGGO ABE
NIAS GARAT SCOT
NET BOYER SPREE
ASHCAN ACTRESS
ENGI SHOO
ADJACENT AMUSE
NORIS ALIENATION
OLDE LEND ENNA
NEID STET ROSY

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
COMBINE YOUR CHANCES

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ J 3

♥ 8 5 2

♦ 7 2

♣ A J 9 8 5 3

WEST

♠ 10 8 6 5 2

♥ K J 7 6

♦ 9 4

♣ 6 2

EAST

♠ Q 9 7

♥ Q 9 4

♦ K 10 8 6

♣ Q 7 4

SOUTH

♠ A K 4

♥ A 10 3

♦ A Q J 5 3

♣ K 10

The bidding:

South West North East

2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠

No one is foolish enough to disagree with the premise that two chances are better than one. But that extra opportunity can sometimes prove elusive. How would you play three no trump after a spade lead?

The auction is routine. Note that even with a six-card suit North preferred properly to play for the nine-trick contract rather than the

minor-suit game.

Against three no trump West led a fourth-best spade. Declarer made the right technical play of the jack covered by the queen and taken by the king. (Had declarer played low from dummy, East's correct play would have been the nine.) At the table we watched matters were decided quickly. Declarer cashed the king of clubs and then finessed, losing to the queen, and ended up with only six tricks.

Declarer could have combined his chances in the minor suits. Suppose that, at trick two, South had led the ten of clubs to the table's jack. East cannot win, because that gives declarer the whole club suit. Now South can use that extra entry to dummy to take the diamond finesse.

When that succeeds declarer continues by overtaking the king of clubs with the ace. If the queen falls declarer is going for overtricks. When the lady does not appear declarer repeats the diamond finesse and then cashes the ace. Although the king does not drop declarer concedes a diamond and has nine tricks in the bank—two spades, a heart, four diamonds and two clubs!



"How much would it cost to send a 185-pound wooden crate to Hawaii for two weeks?"



Aries
March 21 - April 20

You should not let work take over your life entirely. However nor should you fail to meet your obligations. Try not to become flustered but to take things in their stride. Be dependable.



Cancer
June 21 - July 20

You are to be tempted to go on a spending spree; beware you cannot afford to do so. You will find it hard to explain why something you are doing is going wrong.



Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

You should make sure your partner does not feel neglected. Do not try to do too many things all at once. You are liable to be forgetful so do not hesitate to use any available memory aid. Be helpful.



Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19

You will be able to make a few important changes and should do so without delay. Your lucky numbers are 10 and 41. You should take the greatest care when on the road.



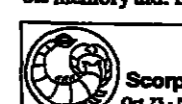
Taurus
April 21 - May 20

Something that seems not to be functioning will turn out in the end to have been doing so. Not only that, but doing very well. You have good reason to be pleased with yourself.



Leo
July 21 - Aug. 21

Make sure you are not doing anything that you well know could damage your health. You might easily offend a friend so take extra care.



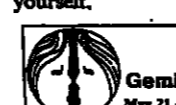
Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 22

You are more than usually liable to lose your temper so do try to exercise a bit more self-control. Do not try to keep up with the neighbors if it involves expenses you cannot afford.



Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 19

A good opportunity will tend to be missed. Remember that limits of speed and safety are there for your protection too and do not exceed them. Do not allow yourself to be distracted by some petty incident.



Gemini
May 21 - June 20

Not everything will be to your liking, but then you would be foolish to expect that it would be. You are liable to trust to luck and should refrain from so doing. Everything is going to take just that much longer. Be impartial.



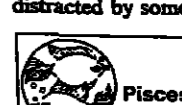
Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

You will feel better than you have done of late. However you should not do anything foolish where eating or drinking is concerned. And do make sure you get enough exercise. Be tactful.



Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Do make sure you are correctly dressed for the occasion as well as the climate. An inclination to wait until the last minute should be counteracted. You will be able to have a good laugh and should do so. Be tolerant.

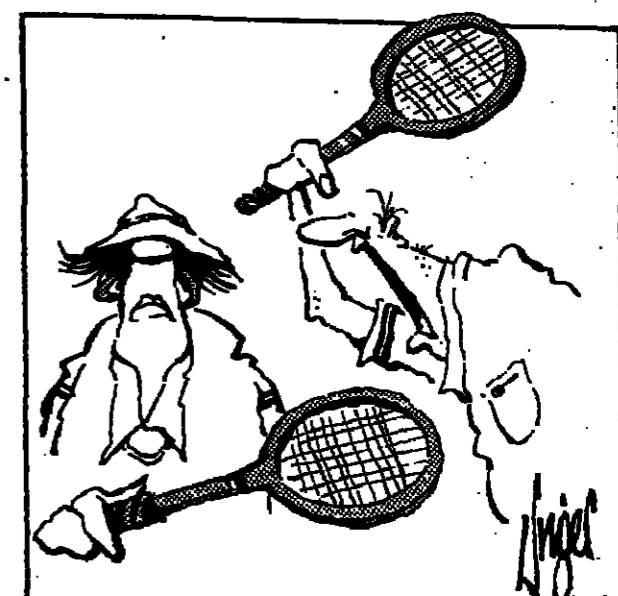


Pisces
Feb. 19 - March 20

You are liable to jump to conclusions and should do your best to avoid so doing. Do not try to do more than one thing at a time. You cannot rely on good luck to get you out of trouble. Be generous.



"He starts barking when the mailman leaves the depot."



"For the last *&#% time ... over the wire fence is not a home run."

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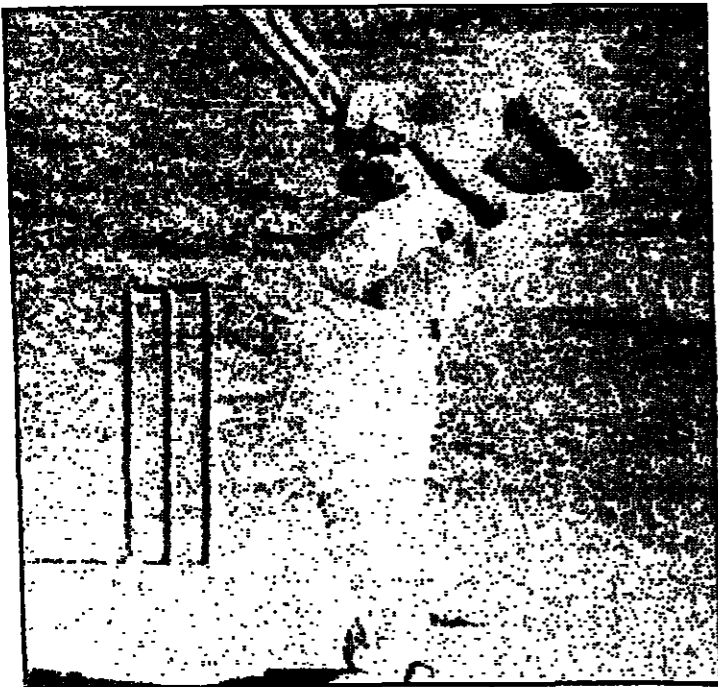
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New Zealand 255 for three on opening day

Wright blasts India for ton



Wright unbeaten on 127

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Feb. 2. (Reuters): An unbeaten 127 by captain John Wright was the cornerstone of New Zealand's impressive score of 255 for three at close on the opening day of the first cricket Test against India today.

Wright's main partner was Andrew Jones, who made 52 in lighter vein. They put on 107 for the second wicket, following the dismissal of Trevor Franklin.

New Zealand's total reflected the quality of the pitch. Wickets at Lancaster Park have not been dependable this season, but this one posed no problems, apart from being too slow for free strokeplay.

The Indian bowling, a little short on experience, stood up well to their task and would have made a bigger impact had two difficult chances offered by Mark Greatbatch in the final session been accepted.

Greatbatch, left off at ten and eleven, both times off debutant

pace bowler Atul Wasson, assisted Wright in an unbroken stand of 73.

India captured just one wicket before lunch, Franklin being superbly caught at first slip by Manoj Prabhakar, off Kapil Dev.

It would have been more appropriate if Prabhakar himself had made the breakthrough for, steadily as Kapil Dev bowled, Prabhakar was the more penetrative bowler, his greatest demands being on Wright, whom he beat several times.

For a while after lunch, the batsmen were completely in charge of the bowling, Jones playing shots with immense authority. He reached his 50 before Wright, with an effortlessly driven six off leg-spinner Hirwani.

But, attempting another drive off the same bowler, he held out at mid-on. Martin Crowe, New Zealand's leading batsman, was preparing to bat in the same aggressive vein as Jones but hav-

ing made 24, he was deceived by a quicker ball from left-arm spinner Venkatapathy Raju, playing in his first Test.

Wasson was ragged in his first spell and conceded 31 runs in six overs but, when tried again with the wind at his back, bowled quite impressively and was unlucky not to remove Greatbatch.

Scoreboard

NEW ZEALAND first innings	
T. Franklin c Prabhakar b Kapil Dev	20
J. Wright not out	127
A. Jones c Venkatapathy Raju b Hirwani	52
M. Crowe lbw b Venkatapathy Raju	24
M. Greatbatch not out	21
Extras (b-1, lb-6, nb-4)	11
Total (for three wickets)	255
To bat: K. Rutherford, R. Hadlee, I. Smith, J. Bracewell, M. Snedden, D. Morrison	
Fall of wickets: 1-26 2-131 3-182	
Bowling: Kapil Dev 18-3-56-1 (1nb), Prabhakar 22-4-68-0, Wasson 16-3-64-0 (3nb), Venkatapathy Raju 17-8-28-1, Hirwani 17-6-32-1.	



England rebel team captain Mike Gitting (left) is shown with John Segoneco, one of the anti-apartheid demonstrators shot by S.African police. (Reuters wirephoto)

UN slams rebel tour

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 2. (Reuters): The chairman of the UN Commission Against Apartheid in sports yesterday commended opponents of a tour of South Africa by a rebel English cricket team.

"This tour constitutes an affront to the international effort to boycott apartheid sport," James Gbeho, who is also Ghana's UN representative, said in a statement.

Expressing strong backing for the National Sports Congress of South Africa, he said "opposition to the participation of the British rebel cricket team in the international cricket event currently taking place in South Africa is commended by the commission, the international community and the anti-apartheid fighters inside South Africa."

"It was little wonder the tour was being challenged through 'effective mass protests by anti-apartheid activists both inside and outside South Africa,'" Gbeho said.

It was also significant that the South African authorities, "in their determination to perpetuate this farce," had resorted to the use of the police and armed forces to stop peaceful demonstrations.

"The use of attack dogs, batons, whips and tear-gas further proves that meaningful change remains to be effected in South Africa and that the old repressive practices are still in full use," the statement added.

The commission monitors implementation of the International Convention Against Apartheid in Sports.

Strident protests surrounding the tour are becoming a factor in the timing of the release of imprisoned black leader Nelson Mandela.

Government sources said yesterday that Pretoria is concerned that almost daily protests against the seven-week tour by anti-apartheid groups are heightening tension in the country, creating an atmosphere not conducive to freeing Mandela.

"One of the problems now is the cricket tour," said one source.

The release of the 71-year-old



Anti-apartheid demonstrators hold up placards during a rally. (Reuters wirephoto)

leader of the African National Congress (ANC) leader after more than a quarter of a century in prison is expected within weeks.

But Pretoria has all along been worried the outpouring of emotion that might follow the release of a man revered as the "Father of the Nation" by millions of South African blacks.

The sources said that if Mandela is released during the cricket tour, which ends early in March, he might be under pressure from supporters to take a stand on the tour and even join protests at cricket grounds.

The thought of tens of thousands of people led by Mandela demonstrating at public venues such as cricket grounds

fills South African authorities with dread.

One solution might be for Mandela to issue a statement about the tour but give an undertaking, written or otherwise, that he would not join the protests, the sources said.

Anti-apartheid groups have vowed to disrupt the tour, which they see as breaking the international sports boycott imposed on South Africa because of its apartheid race laws.

So far the anti-tour campaign has failed to stop the matches, although ugly clashes have occurred between police and demonstrators outside the first two matches of the rebels led by former English captain Mike Gitting.

Biondi welcomes Spitz' comeback

PARIS, Feb. 2. (Reuters): Matt Biondi, the swimming hero of the Seoul Olympics, yesterday praised veteran fellow-American Mark Spitz for his planned comeback.

Spitz, winner of seven golds at the 1972 Munich Olympics, has said he wants to compete in the Barcelona Olympics in 1992 even though he will then be 42 years old.

"I was thrilled when he decided to come back into swimming," the 24-year-old Californian told reporters in Paris. "For two days in a row, there were stories about swimming in the American newspapers. I had never seen that, not even on myself."

Biondi, the 100 metres freestyle world record holder who is in the French capital for a World Cup event, had thought of following Spitz into retirement after his success in Seoul, where he won five golds, one silver and one bronze, left him short of swimming dreams to fulfil.

"After Seoul, I had planned to concentrate on water polo. I soon realised I was much too individualistic," he said.

"My goal now is to prove that American swimmers can survive after college...in the United States, in the past, there was no future for swimmers after university. Back in 1983, someone like (1984 100 metres freestyle Olympic champion) Rowdy Gaines had to carry bags in a hotel to keep on swimming."

Biondi now lives on a trust fund from a bank in Colorado, which allows him to carry on competing, and receives a monthly cheque to pay for his accommodation and expenses.

"It allows me to make reasonable living," he said. His main problem has been training. Since he graduated in conservation of environmental resources he has been banned under US federation rules from using college facilities.

"I am now training with high school kids at a private club in San Roman, California. I have to ask them to look at the clock for me," he explained.

Biondi, who has decided to give up the 200 metres to concentrate on sheer speed and strength, is confident that he can still improve despite hard training conditions.

"I'm pleased with my preparation and I want to clock my life best times at the US Nationals in Nashville, Tennessee, in March," he said.

Dorsett retires

DENVER, Colorado, Feb. 2. (Reuters): Tony Dorsett, the second leading rusher in National Football League history, was quoted yesterday as saying he has retired after missing the entire 1989 season following knee surgery.

Dorsett, 35, joined the Denver Broncos in 1988 after 11 years with the Dallas Cowboys and finished with 12,739 yards rushing. Dorsett told the Rocky Mountain News he is interested in becoming a broadcaster.

The NFL's all-time leading ground gainer is Walter Payton who amassed 14,860 yards in 11 seasons with the Chicago Bears before retiring in 1986.

England and Lamb out of opener

ST KITTS, Feb. 2. (Reuters): England have been unable to pick their strongest team for the opening match of their Caribbean cricket tour against Leeward Islands beginning today.

Although vice-captain Allan Lamb and fast bowler Ricky Elcock are recovering well from injuries, they need more rest and have not been included to face the unbeaten Red Stripe Cup champions in the four-day match.

Elcock, troubled by a persistent back injury, has seen fellow-Barbadian doctor Rudi Webster, himself a former Warwickshire and Otago first class cricketer, in an attempt to conquer the problem.

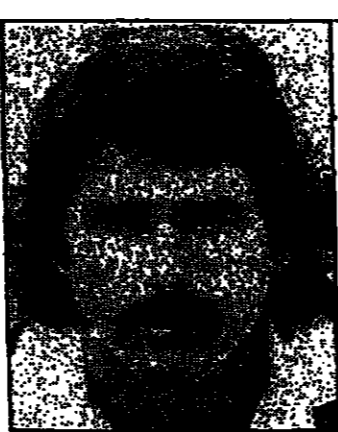
However, England physiotherapist Lawrie Brown has described Elcock's condition as more psychological than physical.

After an unconvincing 20-run victory over a Barbados Second XI this week, England will play only one spinner — left-armer Keith Medleycott — on a wicket which last year was a superb batting strip for India's three-day encounter against the West Indies under-21 side, a match in which more than 850 runs were scored for only 16 wickets.

Missing from the hosts' lineup will be Viv Richards, whose right index finger is not fully healed, and Curtly Ambrose, who has injured a toe.

But there are likely to be four others in the Leeward Islands team with Test experience — the captain Ritchie Richardson, who is the leading scorer in the West Indies this season, Keith Arthurton, Winston Benjamin and Eldine Baptiste.

England would have preferred not to start their tour against the best opposition they will meet



Allan Lamb

outside the Tests.

A repetition of the start of the disastrous 1986 tour, when England lost their opening match by seven wickets to a Windward Islands team without a single Test player, would undoubtedly damage morale

which is currently riding high. But team manager Micky Stewart said he would not be unduly depressed by defeat after their experiences in Australia in 1986-87, when England lost to Queensland but won the series 2-1.

"It'll be a very hard game, a very competitive one and we'll have a lot on our plates," Stewart said.

"Whatever the result, it will always be conducive to the preparation for the international cricket ahead. Although you want to win every game — and this is what you set out to do — it is only the next game that's important."

England: Graham Gooch, Wayne Larkins, Robert Bailey, Robin Smith, Alec Stewart, Nasser Hussain, Jack Russell, Keith Medleycott, Phillip DeFreitas, Gladstone Small, Devon Malcolm.

Camera embedded in stumps

SYDNEY, Feb. 2. (Reuters): Australian television viewers will get the first-ever batsman's view of cricket from a tiny camera the size of a lipstick embedded in the stumps during the final Australia-Pakistan Test which starts in Sydney tomorrow.

The tiny \$1,560 cameras were developed by the Channel Nine network, part of embattled businessman Alan Bond's media group, in cooperation with the Australian Cricket Board (ACB). They are mounted vertically in each off-stump and focus on the outside world through a mirror, giving a wide-angle view of the incoming bowler from one end or the effects of his delivery at the

other. Cricket officials said Tests in a Sheffield Shield match have been spectacularly successful and have given rise to plans to use the "stump-cam" as a major coaching aid.

"You get a picture of the batsman's footwork and backlift. Some of the experiments have shown batsmen playing the wrong line or making technical errors and being dismissed," ACB executive director David Richards told Reuters.

"We see it being a very useful device," he added. Plans are already in place to use it at the National Cricket Academy in Adelaide, he added.

The ACB has extended its existing agreement with Channel Nine that any replays of controversial incidents from the new camera's viewpoint will be at normal speed to avoid putting further pressure on umpires.

"There might be some people who say 'this is a wonderful innovation — let's have electronic umpiring' but that's not going to happen — at least not in the foreseeable future," Richards said.

Asked what happens to the expensive electronics when a bowler knocks down the off-stump, Richards said: "You lose it."

One killed in cricket riot

DHAKA, Bangladesh, Feb. 2. (AP): A riot that erupted over an umpire's decision in a local cricket match left one person dead and about 100 injured as police fired rifles and rival fans hurled bombs and stones, police said yesterday.

The rioters looted four shops and burned a dozen houses during the two-hour outburst Wednesday in Madangan, 16 kilometres (10 miles) southeast of Dhaka, police said.

They said the violence followed an umpire's decision during a match between the Madangan Welfare Association and the Farazkanda Eleven.

The police said they did not know what the decision was, but fans poured away from the cricket grounds and into the town.

Australia-Pakistan Test faces washout

SYDNEY, Feb. 2. (Reuters): Torrential rain across eastern Australia has doused hopes of a fiery start to the final cricket Test between Australia and Pakistan in Sydney tomorrow.

Australia is one-up in a series which has been dogged by bad feeling on both sides, with Pakistan questioning Australian umpiring when it lost the first Test.

So far captain Imran Khan has been unable to inspire deeds to match his earlier claim that Pakistan were the best team in the world following their win over a disenchanted West Indies last year.

Pakistan have not won a game so far and its woeful one-day performance in Canberra against a Prime Minister's XI in what is normally a spirited if not serious highlight of any first class tour of Australia left Prime Minister Bob Hawke visibly disappointed.

"I think they could have given it a bit more of a go. It was a one-day game...what does it matter if they were all out?" said Hawke after Pakistan failed to field any of its top players.

The side was booed from the field after it stonewalled its way through the last 18 overs to a 82-run defeat on Wednesday.

Australian captain Allan Border was equally critical and continued the smiting on Friday when he singled out the actions of Pakistani vice captain Javed Miandad in Adelaide where the Miandad batted twice but said he was unable to field because of injury.

Sniff "A lot of sides lie doggo, always complaining about injuries. As soon as they get a sniff of winning, they're all over you like a rash," he told reporters.



Javed Miandad (left) and Salim Malik on injured list



"Javed seemed to run on the field quickly when they had half a sniff of victory," he added.

The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) is playing down the simmering disagreements, but is currently considering an official report on an incident last week in Melbourne. During a match against Victoria, Pakistan manager Imtiaz Alam led his team off the pitch for several minutes to protest against one umpiring decision.

The affair arose after leg-spin-

ner Mushtaq Ahmed was censured by umpire Robin Bailhache for running across the wicket and only prolonged discussions off the field persuaded the visitors to continue.

ACB chief executive David Richards said today he did not wish to comment on the matter until the report had been dealt with.

"We might have something substantial to say about it next week," he told by telephone from Melbourne.

The board has appointed two of its most experienced umpires, Tony Crafter and Peter McConnell, to stand in the last Test where their skill and nerve is likely to be tested if the ball turns and fielders crowd the batsmen on a damp and possibly disintegrating pitch.

Richards was optimistic that the Test would go ahead even if the heavy rain forecast through the first two days of the five day match caused some delays.

"Speaking from memory,

we've had about 250 Test matches since Test cricket started in Australia and only one — in 1970/71 — has been prevented by rain," he said.

Ground staff at the Sydney Cricket Ground have the strip and bowling run-ups under cover. They said today the outfield was draining well despite the downpour.

Curator (groundsman) Peter Leroy said that as soon as the rain eases, the ground will be good condition to play on.

Australia have made four changes to the team which drew in Adelaide and won the first Test in Melbourne after being forced by injuries to omit batsmen David Boon, Geoff Marsh and bowler Greg Campbell.

Teenager Darren Lehmann, with four centuries and an average this season over 60 for South Australia, was included in the squad along with the west Australian trio Terry Alderman, Mike Veletta and Tom Moody.

Injuries Pakistan's selectors have been delaying the announcement of their team because many players have injuries. Star batsman Salim Malik is recovering from a broken thumb suffered in Adelaide and is the most doubtful.

The tourists have said Imran, Wasim Akram and Miandad will play despite mugging fitness problems, said manager Imtiaz Alam.

"They must overcome their problems and play to square the series," he said.

"We came here to win the three Tests — we almost won the first, should have won the second, and must win the third."

Imran is nursing calf muscle soreness and a shoulder strain, Akram has a sore groin, and Javed has lower back damage.

ACB decline invitation

SYDNEY, Feb. 2. (Reuters): Australia have declined an invitation to take part in a proposed international one-day cricket tournament in Pakistan later this year.

Australian Cricket Board (ACB) executive director David Richards said today the decision was made because Australia faced a tough 1990-91 season with an Ashes tour by England.

"We do not wish to play additional cricket and you normally need two to three years lead times for something like this because the major cricketing countries are always very busy," he said.

He added that as joint hosts with New Zealand of the next World Cup in 1992, Australia viewed the Pakistani proposal as undermining the stature of that competition.

Pakistan, who announced their tournament on Tuesday, hoped to attract all the major cricket-playing countries to the event.

Koch tells of bad old days in East Germany

EAST BERLIN, Feb. 2. (Reuters): Marita Koch, arguably the world's best woman athlete in the 1980's, spoke of her troubles with headline East German officialdom in a newspaper interview published on Wednesday.

"We were supposed to give a self-confident impression but we almost had to run away from Western athletes," she told the youth newspaper Junge Welt, referring to a ban on contacts with Western competitors.

"For five minutes in the stadium we were the greatest and then quickly small again. Probably only completely insensitive characters were able to stand it."

Koch, 32, won an array of Olympic, world and European titles and — three years after her track career ended — still holds the women's world 400 metres record of 47.60 seconds.

She said she and Wolfgang Meier, then her trainer and now

her husband, experienced increasing difficulties with East Germany's sports authorities from the mid-1970s.

The troubles began "because we trained differently from the way things were done in (East) Berlin," Koch said.

Meier was repeatedly pushed aside because he spoke of things that were also plaguing the minds of others, she said.

He was also punished for his outspokenness, she added. For example the authorities changed their minds about his presence at the World Indoor Games in Paris in 1985 by claiming he and Koch had not handed in their training record punctually.

Once, Koch said, she refused to fill in her visa application because Meier was made to stay at home.

"That was before the 1979 World Cup in which I faced three events. I needed Wolfgang badly."

Liverpool brush aside Norwich Arsenal fall in Cup

LONDON, Feb. 2. (Reuters): Liverpool beat Norwich 3-1 at the second attempt to enter the fifth round of the English Football Association (FA) Cup on Wednesday but League champions Arsenal saw their hopes smashed 2-0 at Queen's Park Rangers.

In the League Cup, high-flying Southampton — Liverpool's next opponents in the FA Cup — saw their bid for a Cup double vanish with a shock 2-0 defeat in their quarterfinal replay on an artificial pitch at Second Division Oldham.

It was Oldham's 30th unbeaten home game and earned them a semifinal tie against Second Division West Ham, who overcame a depleted Derby 2-1 at the third attempt.

In the other FA Cup replay of the night, Second Division Newcastle beat Third Division Reading 4-1 to line up an appetising — and potentially giant-killing — home fifth round tie against troubled Manchester United.

Liverpool, held to a 0-0 draw at Norwich on Sunday, showed they had no intention of relinquishing the trophy they won last year and scored after 17 minutes through Steve Nicol.

Norwich's Robert Fleck turned the ball in for an equaliser three minutes later but John Barnes put Liverpool ahead in the 55th minute and fellow England striker Peter Beardsley made it 3-1 with a penalty in the 63rd minute.

QPR's £1 million (\$1.7 million) striker Roy Wegerle,

who says he wants to play for the United States in the World Cup finals, set up both second-half goals which sent Arsenal crashing.

Former Arsenal player Kenny Sansom scored the first in the 57th minute thanks to a cross from Wegerle, who then fed Andy Sinton in the dying seconds for the second.

Striker Andy Ritchie, Oldham's saviour with an injury-time equaliser last week, gave his team their first major Cup semifinal for 77 years and became the tournament's top scorer to date with a ninth-minute goal which took his tally to eight.

Alex Ferguson has the perfect opportunity to escape from the pressure which has dogged him and his team this season when Manchester United face neighbours Manchester City in one of two classic Derby matches in tomorrow's English League soccer programme.

While United battle to haul themselves away from the relegation zone, Liverpool will be entertaining Merseyside rivals Everton in the day's other outstanding fixture.

Ferguson, whose future has been under threat since last September when promoted City thrashed his team 5-1, desperately needs a victory. United are currently 17th in the First Division.

Only their determined form in the FA Cup has kept Ferguson in his job during their recent poor run. After single-goal victories at Nottingham Forest and Hereford, they will visit Second Division Newcastle in the fifth round on February 17.

It has been an entirely different story for his rival Manchester manager Howard Kendall, for whom victory in tomorrow's 12th Manchester Derby would be powerful confirmation of his transformation of the once-struggling City team.

When Kendall returned from Spain, where he was dismissed by Athletic Bilbao, to take over at

Maine Road in December, City were bottom of the First Division and United were 12th.

The positions have changed dramatically in six weeks. City have won three and drawn two of six League games under the former Everton manager while United have lost four and drawn their other three League games in that period.

Kendall is unlikely to allow his thoughts to stray tomorrow, but if they do it will certainly be to Anfield where his old club Everton, having run back to form after a dismal November, attempt to end Liverpool's run of 13 matches without defeat.

Results
English Football Association (FA) Cup fourth round replays

Liverpool 3 Norwich 1 (Liverpool at home to Southampton in fifth round)
Newcastle 4 Reading 1 (Newcastle at home to Manchester United)

QPR 2 Arsenal 0 (Rangers away to Blackpool)

English Football League Cup fifth round replay

Oldham 2 Southampton 0 (Fifth round second replay)
West Ham 2 Derby 1 (Oldham meet West Ham in semifinals)

Scottish Cup third round replay
Hamilton 0 Dunfermline 1 (Dunfermline away to Cowdenbeath in fourth round)

English Division Four Maidstone v Rochdale postponed
Scottish Division Two Arbroath 3 East Fife 0

Draws
Following are revised draws in various British soccer competitions after Wednesday's replays:

English Football Association (FA) Cup fifth round:
Crystal Palace v Rochdale, Newcastle v Manchester United, Blackpool v Queens Park Rangers, Oldham v Everton, Bristol City v Cambridge United, West Bromwich v Aston Villa, Sheffield United v Burnley, Liverpool v Southampton.

Matches to be replayed on Feb 17-18:
English Football League Cup semifinals:
Nottingham Forest v Coventry, Oldham v West Ham. Matches over two legs in February, dates to be decided.

Scottish Football Association (FA) Cup fourth round:
St Mirren v Clydebank, Cowdenbeath v Dunfermline, Dundee United v Queens of the South, Aberdeen v Morton, Celtic v Rangers, Stirling v Inverness Caledonian, Hearts v Motherwell, Hibernian v East Fife. Matches to be played on February 24-25.



Barnes put Liverpool ahead



Tyson (right) gets a physical examination at a Tokyo hospital on Thursday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tyson resumes sparring

TOKYO, Feb. 2. (AP): Undisputed world heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson resumed sparring yesterday, while challenger James "Buster" Douglas had a day off, even his manager described as "horrible".

Tyson, who has been having trouble with balance and timing since he arrived in Japan on Jan. 16, returned to the ring for six rounds after a five-day break from sparring.

Though "Iron Mike," the youngest heavyweight champion ever, displayed an array of powerful punches, he had difficulty setting up combinations and was repeatedly tagged by Trevor Berbick, the former world champion Tyson defeated in November 1986.

Tyson has sparred only 30 rounds in the past two weeks, and was downed last Wednesday in what his trainers called a slip. The Japanese media widely reported that sparring partner Greg Page, also a former world champion, caught Tyson with a right hook.

"Incomprehensible. Tyson just reviewing the basics," read a headline in the Hochi Shimbun, a sports newspaper that is jointly sponsoring the Feb. 11 (Feb. 10 in the United States) bout at the 36,000-seat Tokyo Dome.

Trainer Aaron Snowell has said Tyson's workload is being reduced to avoid overtraining. He said Tyson, 23, has been preparing for two months.

But Snowell said the undefeated Tyson, who has won 33 of his 37 bouts by knockout, is not taking Douglas lightly.

"I saw him running the other morning, and he looked like he is in the best shape he's ever been in," Snowell said.

The 29-year-old challenger, however, didn't look very impressive on Wednesday.

Douglas, who sparred for six rounds, found himself on the defensive against his former opponent, Eddy "Young Joe Louis" Taylor, a much smaller fighter.

"Horrible," said manager John Johnson after the practice was over. "But he won't look like that against Tyson."

Johnson said Douglas, whose mother died of a stroke late last month, is beginning to feel pre-fight stress.

"We're ready, but we have to wait until next Sunday," Johnson said, adding that he planned to give Douglas the afternoon off today.

"I expect Tyson to come charging in for a first-round knockout, and James is going to meet him," Johnson said. "There isn't any point in trying to run away."

Johnson refused to predict which round, but said he expected Douglas to knock out Tyson early in the fight. Douglas has won 29 of his 35 fights, 19 by knockout. Though he is an overwhelming underdog against Tyson, he has knocked out his last six opponents. The most recent was Oliver McCull, who hit the canvas in the 10th round of their fight last July 21.

That same day, Tyson dropped Carl "The Truth" Williams in 93 seconds. Tyson won a title defense against Tony Tubbs at the Tokyo Dome in the second round on March 21, 1988.

ITyson wins the Douglas bout, it will be his seventh title defense.

Egypt hope preparations will pay off

CAIRO, Feb. 2. (Reuters): Egypt, World Cup soccer finalists for the first time since 1934, believe intense and carefully-planned preparations will pay off for them when they travel to this year's finals in Italy.

Although, as coach Mahmoud El-Gohari has admitted, Egypt will lack the strength and experience of their European rivals in Group F of the opening round, they hope hard work and organisation will ensure they earn respect.

"I think with good preparations and hard work we will be very close to them," said El-Gohari, referring to his Group F opponents England, Ireland and the Netherlands.

"They are tough and more experienced. But we know their tactics very well and they do not know ours. So, we have a chance to do well."

"We are going to the World Cup finals with the hope of making all the world respect Egypt and their players."

Egypt qualified for the finals for the second time by winning African qualifying Group B and then beating Algeria 1-0 on aggregate in a decisive two-legged play-off.

El Gohari admits there is a gap in ability between Egypt and their European rivals. But he believes his well-planned programme of warm-up matches will reduce it.

"We shall do our best in our preparations to make our players gain the experience and reach the standard of the European players. All the players will attack and all will defend. It is going to be difficult — but we will do our best," he said.

In order to give his players a good opportunity to gain experience of playing against European-style teams, El Gohari has arranged a warm-up programme, starting this month, which will include 14 matches.

Egypt will meet Poland, Denmark, South Korea and Austria in Cairo this month and play two fixtures in Europe during March before returning to play Romania in Cairo in late March.

Brazil ready to reclaim crown

RIO DE JANEIRO, Feb. 2. (Reuters): Brazil, equipped with new tactics and steered by the European experience of many of their players, are ready to reclaim their crown as the kings of international soccer at this year's World Cup finals.

That is the view of their former coach Jose Saldanha, the man who led their qualification to the 1970 finals in Mexico where they claimed the Jules Rimet Trophy outright with their third World Cup triumph.

"If we compare the present team to the 1970 and 1982 sides, we will all recognise that those two were much more brilliant, yet the current squad is by far the strongest we have ever formed," said Saldanha.

"Our coach can easily select 22 excellent players, something that never happened in the past."

Brazil, dominant in world soccer from the late 1950s to 1970, gained renewed hope last year when they won the South American championship for the first time since 1949.

It was their first major trophy since 1958.

Saldanha said the present squad had more depth than in the past and noted that in 1958 and 1970 "the reserve were in general very poor."

The only country to participate in every World Cup finals series since the first in 1930, Brazil have the best overall record. They have won the trophy three times, finished second once (1950), third twice (1938 and 1978) and fourth in 1974.

In 1982, after being installed as favourites following their convincing first stage form, the Brazilians were eliminated by Italy, a defensive team which peaked at the right time.

In Mexico four years ago, they were knocked out in the quarterfinals after losing to France on penalties. They conceded only one goal in normal play during the competition — even though coach Tele Saldanha had kept faith with the traditional Brazilian style of pure attacking play.

Current coach Sebastiao Lazaroni, installed in March 1989, has made some changes, but without entirely sacrificing their samba style.

When he took over early last year he faced several problems, including the absence of most of his leading players who were banned by their European clubs from taking part in Brazil's international friendlies.

After four unconvincing victories, Lazaroni's team was submitted to a serious test with dismal results when

they went on an unhappy European tour which included a 4-0 defeat by Denmark.

"At that stage, I knew something had to be done, otherwise we would get nowhere," said Lazaroni. "So, without time to practice, I decided to make use of the libero during the South American championship."

"After a bad start, it worked perfectly. Now, to be honest, I am not willing to drop it."

After Lazaroni started to employ a libero, Brazil's defence tightened up and in 14 matches in the second part of 1989 conceded only two goals.

Lazaroni, while delighted with the libero's efficiency, has pointed out that his tactics have not robbed Brazil of their attacking style, citing 26 goals scored since its introduction.

"Our defence has been tested by Uruguay, Argentina, Yugoslavia, Italy and Holland, among others," he said. "The tactics has proved its efficiency."

Beбето, the talented striker of Rio's Vasco da Gama, has been the team's leading scorer. He, Careca, Diego Maradona's club-mate at Napoli, and the Dutch-based Romario form a potent attack.

Under Lazaroni's guidance, Brazil have a record of 16 wins, five draws and three defeats — all on tour in Europe last June. In that stretch, they have scored 41 goals and conceded only 11.

Lazaroni is expected to choose Brazil's 22-man World Cup squad on April 16. Before that, however, the Brazilians will play at least two warm-up matches. On February 21 they meet Poland and on March 28 they visit England.

In Mexico four years ago, they were knocked out in the quarterfinals after losing to France on penalties. They conceded only one goal in normal play during the competition — even though coach Tele Saldanha had kept faith with the traditional Brazilian style of pure attacking play.

Current coach Sebastiao Lazaroni, installed in March 1989, has made some changes, but without entirely sacrificing their samba style.

When he took over early last year he faced several problems, including the absence of most of his leading players who were banned by their European clubs from taking part in Brazil's international friendlies.

After four unconvincing victories, Lazaroni's team was submitted to a serious test with dismal results when

SPORTS BRIEFS

NBA games

NEW YORK, Feb. 2. (Reuters): Results of National Basketball Association (NBA) games played yesterday.

New York	96	Sacramento	89
Houston	139	Chicago	112
Milwaukee	129	Orlando	111
Denver	123	New Jersey	112
Phoenix	102	Atlanta	90

UAE triumph

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, Feb. 2. (AP): Fahd Khamis scored in the first half to give the United Arab Emirates 1-0 victory over Egypt in a friendly match Wednesday, avenging an earlier defeat.

Scottish forward

BARCELONA, Spain, Feb. 2. (Reuters): Scottish forward Steve Archibald returned to Barcelona on Wednesday to play with Second Division side Espanol for the rest of the season.

Iraq victorious

BAGHDAD, Feb. 2. (Reuters): Iraq beat Denmark 1-0 (halftime 1-0) in a soccer friendly yesterday. Scorer: Ahmed Radhi (31st min).

Romanian stars

PISA, Italy, Feb. 2. (Reuters): Steaua Bucharest soccer star Gheorghe Hagi and Marius Lacatus said on Wednesday they hoped to join clubs outside Romania after the June World Cup finals.

Spanish clubs

MADRID, Feb. 2. (Reuters): Spain's soccer clubs yesterday banned state television coverage of their matches until channels pledged not to broadcast games abroad without authorization.

Honeyghan hurt

LONDON, Feb. 2. (AP): Lloyd Honeyghan's hands hurt and his punches are half-hearted. Other than that, the British challenger said Wednesday, he's ready to meet Mark Breland for the World Boxing Association welterweight championship.

Ties broken

WINDHOEK, Feb. 2. (Reuters): Namibia has broken ties with the South African Rugby Board (Sarb) prior to the territory's independence next month, manager Stoffel Rocher said yesterday.

Motor racing

ANTWERP, Belgium, Feb. 2. (Reuters): West German sports car manufacturer Porsche has signed an agreement in principle with the Onyx team for a comeback to Formula One motor racing in 1991, Onyx's Belgian owner said yesterday.

LPGA Classic

LAKE WORTH, Fla., Feb. 2. (Reuters): South African Nicky Le Roux shot a blistering 30 over the back nine to post a round of six-under-par 66 yesterday and tie Pat Bradley for the first-round lead in the LPGA Classic women's golf tournament. Two strokes behind the co-leaders after the opening round of the Wyckoff Golf and Country Club was Patty Jordan. Five golfers finished tied for fourth at three-under-par 69.

Valencia hold Real to draw

MADRID, Feb. 2. (Reuters): Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez maintained his prolific scoring form but his 24th goal of the season was only enough to give Spanish League leaders Real Madrid a 1-1 draw at Valencia on Wednesday.

Sanchez, who hit a second-half hat-trick in Real's 7-0 demolition of Castellon last Sunday, broke the deadlock in Valencia in the 65th minute in a move initiated by Rafael Martin Vazquez.

But two minutes later fourth-placed Valencia equalised through Fernando Gomez, whose header was cleared by goalkeeper Olaya. Fernando Gomez, whose header was cleared by goalkeeper Olaya, was cleared by goalkeeper Olaya.

Real's German midfielder Bernd Schuster was booked for the fourth time this season for fouling Penev and will have to miss Sunday's game against Real Mallorca.

Real kept five points clear of closest pursuers Barcelona, who were held to a goalless draw at home to Real Oviedo despite keeping the visitors under constant pressure.

Barcelona missed the midfield organisation of Luis Milla, who



Futre (right) and Malaga's Esteban Vigo fight for the ball. (Reuters wirephoto)

was sick with influenza, while Danish striker Michael Laudrup was out with a muscle strain and Aitor Beguiristain sidelined for accumulating too many bookings.

Portuguese striker Paulo Futre scored twice to give Atletico Madrid a 2-0 home win over Malaga, which hoisted their level on points with Barcelona.

Futre struck the first in the

20th minute after his initial effort had bounced back out from the defence and added the second in the 70th minute from a long cross Manolo Sanchez.

Technical problems spoiled two other matches, with Rayo Vallecano-Osasuna suspended after an hour because of power failure and the Logron-Devilla kick-off delayed 80 minutes by lighting problems.

Matthews mourns soccer's ailments

LONDON, Feb. 2. (Reuters): Stanley Matthews, the most celebrated soccer star of his era, marked his 75th birthday with a mournful appraisal of the modern game and some outright criticism for its greatest exponent Diego Maradona.

The former England winger, who was never cautioned or even reprimanded by a referee during his 30-year career as a professional, surveyed the current state of the sport he loves and admitted he deplored many of its present ailments.

"It has changed so much," Matthews, 75, yesterday, said. "It's hardly the same game at all. The players behave so differently, they retaliate so much more than in my time and much of the fun and pleasure has gone."

"Before the Second World War, if you played for England and you were sent off you would never be picked again for your country. And you would be booed by your home crowd."

"In those days, of course, there were no yellow cards and warnings. If you did something wrong, you went straight off. That was it."

Speaking at the launch on Wednesday of a new award named after him to reward fair play in English soccer, the one-time "Wizard of dribble" revealed the same gentle charm



Maradona: comes under fire

and kind manners which endeared him to his fans from the innocent 1930s to the cynical 1960s. But he showed too that he had lost none of the steely determina-

tion and deep dislike of foul play which put him apart from so many lesser players.

Great players, he said, could be categorised into the most supremely brilliant, the very brilliant and the ordinarily brilliant.

Asked where, in this system, he placed such modern stars as Argentine World Cup captain Maradona, he shrugged and, avoiding the question, said: "What he did in Mexico — punting that ball into the goal — was terrible. I was there... it was a dreadful thing to do."

Maradona's infamous "Hand of God" goal against England in 1986 clearly upset Matthews, who put only Dutchman Ruud Gullit, of the modern stars, alongside such former greats as Alfredo Di Stefano and Pele.

Matthews, a fitness enthusiast who played for Stoke in the English First Division when he was 50, admitted that the modern players were much fitter than those of his own era, but said they lacked character.

"Hard tackling and physical conflict was all part and parcel of the game in my day," he said. "We accepted it in the spirit of the game and did not complain. And we never kissed each other on the pitch."

"If you scored a goal you

might get a hand-shake or a pat on the back. That was all — but none of this running to the crowd and so on."

"They do it now even if they are only half a yard (metre) out from goal and score. They should be embarrassed. I would have been. After all, it is their job to score goals."

Matthews shattered another myth when he admitted that recollections of the 1951 English Football Association (F.A.) Cup final, in which he gained a winner's medal with Blackpool, were also an embarrassment to him.

"They called it the Matthews final," he said. "But it should have been the Mortensen final. He scored three goals in a final which had never happened before, and all I did was make a pass. Stan (Mortensen) made the space for the winning goal too."

Matthews, who signed as a professional for Stoke City in 1952 and continued playing until 1965, said he felt too that modern players were shielded from criticism by team managers and coaches.

He said England's failure at the 1988 European Championship finals, in which they lost all three matches, was blamed unfairly on manager Bobby Robson. But, he said, "There was nothing Bobby could do. He was not playing. They were."



Grossmann holds her skate as she spins. (Reuters wirephoto)

Grossmann takes title

LENINGRAD, USSR, Feb. 2. (AP): Evelyn Grossmann of East Germany won the women's European Figure Skating Championships women's title last night, overtaking Natalia Lebedeva of Soviet Union who fell three times in the final free programme.

In other events yesterday, Czechoslovakia's Peter Barna took the lead in the men's event after the original programme while the Soviet Union's Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko led in the ice dance competition. Starting to "Slaughter on 10th Avenue," Grossmann cleanly completed four triple jumps, earning marks of 5.4 to 5.7 out of a possible 6 to take the free programme.

Lebedeva came in second and Marina Kielmann of West Germany was third. "I am astounded I won the championship," Grossmann said. "I just came here hoping for a medal."

The 18-year-old Grossmann was seventh in the European Championships last year.

SPORTS

Racist remark mars Games boxing finals

Coe loses last athletics battle of career

Super Bowl first

JONESBORO, Georgia, Feb. 2, (AP): Authorities ruled on Wednesday that a Georgia woman committed suicide, but were not sure why her husband waited until after the Super Bowl to report the shooting. Clayton county police said Tuesday that Mary Helen Holloway, who lived near Jonesboro, died of a gunshot wound to the head. Her husband, Gary L. Holloway of Clayton County, told authorities that she shot herself in the head after an argument, but he went to his mother-in-law's house and watched the Super Bowl before calling the police.

Stadium safety

LONDON, Feb. 2, (Reuters): The Welsh Rugby Union is to spend more than £1 million (\$1.68 million) on improvements to Cardiff Arms Park in line with recommendations of an inquiry into stadium safety in Britain. The union's safety consultant, Derek Siddall, said today they were overhauling all areas highlighted in last week's report from Lord Justice Taylor into the disaster at Hillsborough soccer ground last April in which 95 people died.

Fine paid

PHOENIX, Feb. 2, (UPI): Team McLaren, winner of 25 of the 32 Formula One races the past two years, paid a \$100,000 fine to the sanctioning body hours before the deadline yesterday in an effort to be eligible for the 1990 season, a Phoenix Grand Prix official said.

Dope tests

BONN, Feb. 2, (Reuters): West Germany plans to expand its experimental scheme for random dope tests on athletes in training to cover all Olympic sports, officials said today.

Title fight

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey, Feb. 2, (Reuters): Pernell "Sweetpea" Whitaker, who overcame injuries to win both the World Boxing Council (WBC) and International Boxing Federation (IBF) lightweight crowns, defends his titles against hard-hitting fellow American Freddie Pendleton today.

W. German striker

ROME, Feb. 2, (Reuters): West German striker Rudi Voeller has signed a new contract to stay with Italian soccer First Division Roma until 1992, the club said today.

Olympic record

MADRID, Feb. 2, (Reuters): The 1992 Olympics in Barcelona will set a record in participation and attendance thanks to the thaw in East-West relations, organizers said on Wednesday.

Qualifying record

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida, Feb. 2, (UPI): Bob Wollek of France, trying for his fourth victory in the 24 hours of Daytona, yesterday set a track qualifying record of 131 mph (210.823 kph) to capture the pole position for this weekend's race.

NHL games

NEW YORK, Feb. 2, (Reuters): Results of National Hockey League (NHL) games played yesterday.

Montreal	4	Boston	2
Philadelphia	2	Hartford	1
Calgary	4	Vancouver	3
Chicago	7	L.A. Kings	4

AUCKLAND, Feb. 2, (Reuters): Double Olympic champion Seb Coe bowed out of athletics with a charge of racist judging marred the Commonwealth Games boxing final today.

Coe's withdrawal from the 1,500 metres heats created a bigger stir in Auckland than the actual events on a low-key day at the Mount Smart Stadium.

"There is no chance of me running again at international level," said Coe, who in 1984 became the only man to retain the Olympic 1,500 metres title.

A viral infection, which contributed to his finishing sixth in

the 800 metres final yesterday, forced Coe to pull out of the longer distance.

"It's the frustration of having got this far, of being so close and of having trained extremely well," said the Englishman, who now plans a career in politics.

Peter Elliott kept the flag flying for England by winning his 1,500 metres heat in three minutes 42.88 seconds. The final was scheduled for tomorrow, the closing day of the Games.

Kenyan Sports Minister Ochoa Makangango stormed out of the boxing arena crying "rubbish" after the light-weight title was given to Scott

Charles Kane. Kenya's Nicodemus Odore had lost 3-2 on points.

"That decision was not in the spirit of the Commonwealth," Makangango said. "It's racist."

Makangango calmed down later and toned down his initial remark. "I'm not saying it was racism—it can lead some people to think so," he said.

Team manager Isaiah Kiplagat said the Kenyans had protested and would take the matter to the International Amateur Boxing Association (AIBA) if necessary.

"We feel the judging was completely unfair," said Kiplagat. "It was obvious to everyone there."

But a Kenyan protest on the athletics track came to nothing today and Australia's Andrew Lloyd, shock winner over Olympic champion John Ngugi in yesterday's 5,000 metres, was at least able to collect his medal.

Lloyd went to the awards ceremony 24 hours later after the Kenyans had decided not to appeal against the race jury's verdict that there was no foul play when Ngugi and Yobes Ondieki fell in separate incidents.

Scott Liz McColgan retained her 10,000 metres title in a slow-starting race and Australian Jane Flemming added the long jump gold to her heptathlon title.

But Englishwoman Sally Gunnell's attempt at a hurdles double was thwarted by Kay Morley of Wales who set a Games record to win the 100 metres.

Kerry Saxby declared her gold

medal worth more than her 20 world records when she added the 10-km walk to Australia's numerous Games successes.

Saxby had to cope with a stone in her shoe, toothache and tiredness after a poor night's sleep and also survived a warning for not maintaining contact with the ground at all times.

Commonwealth secretary-general Sonny Ramphal cast an optimistic look ahead to the 1994 Games, in Victoria, Canada.

A flurry of media speculation 12 days ago threw up fears that African countries might call for England to be thrown out of the Auckland Games in protest at the current rebel England cricket tour of South Africa.

But the African nations agreed to take no action and Ramphal said the Games had entered a new era when nations would no longer use sporting boycotts as a means of political protest.

"I think they can go ahead with a great deal more confidence," said Ramphal of the Victoria event.

Standings

Medals table after the ninth day of Commonwealth Games competition on Friday (tabulate under gold, silver, bronze):

Australia	50	53	53
England	38	35	41
Canada	34	38	34
New Zealand	16	13	24
India	13	8	10
Wales	10	8	10
Nigeria	5	11	5



Coe (centre) talks to his father Peter Coe (right) and team manager John Jeffery during a warm-up session. (Reuters wirephoto)

Holiday Inn League off to flying start

THE Kuwait Holiday Inn Netball League got off to a flying start on Monday, January 30 with the first official games of the 1990 season. Unfortunately the season ended rather early for Joanne Smith, centre for Fahheel, who was carried off injured in the first quarter.

The first match was between Jabriya and Fahheel which ended in a well-deserved win for the Jabriya team 27-11. The effective defence of Heather Deas and Jill Thompson for the Jabriya team curtailed the considerable shooting abilities of Elaine Haynes.

The second match was more closely contested and Gulf Jets' superiority in goal difference owed much to the accurate shooting of Michelle Jeans. The eventual outcome of the match was Gulf Jets 21, Salwa and Salmiya 14.

Gulf Sharks, the second Gulf English School team, start their challenge for the title next week. The league table after the first week's matches is as follows.

	P	W	D	L	G	F	A
Jabriya	1	0	0	27	11	2	2
Gulf Jets	1	0	0	21	14	2	2
Salwa & Salmiya	1	0	0	14	21	0	0
Fahheel	1	0	0	11	27	0	0
Gulf Sharks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

UN and IOC to meet in Kuwait

LONDON, Feb. 2, (AP): Anti-apartheid commissioners of the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee will meet for the first time this month to discuss the sports relations with South Africa, officials said yesterday.

IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch and James Victor Gheb, the UN ambassador from Ghana, and head of the special committee against apartheid, will head the two delegations at the meeting in Kuwait Feb. 28.

This will be the first time the UN and the IOC have joined to discuss anti-apartheid measures in sports, according to Fekron Kideane, a consultant to the Olympic committee's apartheid committee.

Among the items discussed will be a meeting last month between South African Olympic officials and two representatives of the IOC commission, Mideane said.

Queen Elizabeth stops to speak to a resident of Auckland as she arrives to attend the Games. (Reuters wirephoto)

Dutch get easy draw for Euro-soccer

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 2, (Reuters): Defending champions the Netherlands were handed a comfortable-looking passage to the 1992 European Championship finals today when they were drawn together with Portugal, Greece, Finland and Malta in the qualifying tournament's Group Six.

None of the Netherlands' opposition have succeeded in qualifying for this year's World Cup finals and, given the supremacy of the Dutchmen in the 1988 European finals, they should have little trouble in securing their place in Sweden in 1992.

World Cup hosts Italy were much less fortunate. They were given a tough task in Group Three, in which they will meet 1988 beaten finalists the Soviet Union, Hungary, Norway and Cyprus.

Italy's clashes with the Soviet Union, who are among the outsiders for the World Cup this year, are sure to revive memories of their semifinal meeting in West Germany two years ago when they were swept aside in Stuttgart. Old rivalries will also be recalled in Groups

One and Five, particularly by Michel Platini and Franz Beckenbauer.

In Group one, Spain face Czechoslovakia, France, Iceland and Albania. Spain's clashes with France, now managed by Platini, will recall their meeting in the European championship final of 1984 in Paris when, with Platini at his best as a player, the French won their first major soccer trophy.

In Group Five, West Germany will face Belgium, whom they beat in the 1980 final in Rome, East Germany, Wales and Luxembourg.

For Beckenbauer, thoughts of the 1974 World Cup finals will be evoked by the pairing with East Germany, who were the only country to beat the West German side he captained on its way to winning the Global trophy that year.

World Cup finalists were paired together in three other groups with England, almost incredibly, drawn in Group Seven with Ireland, Poland and Turkey.

England and Ireland will need no introductions as they were drawn against each other in the finals of the last European Championship in West Germany and for the World Cup this year in Italy.

To add to the sequence of coincidences which appears to have dogged England, they were drawn with Poland in the qualifying stages for the 1990 World Cup finals and with Turkey in the qualifiers for the last European finals.

Yugoslavia, among the most skilful of the World Cup qualifiers, were drawn to head Group Four in which they will meet Denmark, fellow World Cup qualifiers Austria, Northern Ireland and the Faroe Islands, making their first appearance in any international soccer tournament.

Romania, drawn to head Group Two, were not given an easy section. They were paired with Scotland, who are among the World Cup finalists, Bulgaria, Switzerland and San Marino, another nation appearing at senior international level for the first time.

Malaysia Air Race survives strike scare

FEARS that a French air traffic controllers strike would jeopardise the start of next week's Malaysia International Air Race have been dispelled and the race will go ahead as planned.

Flight controllers had threatened to walk out and declare a three-day strike to clash with the scheduled Feb 6 take-off of the longest air race in aviation history.

But following the intervention of race organiser Bernard Lamy, the strike has been called off and the race will take off on Monday from the Paris suburb of Toussus-le-Noble.

The news was immediately welcomed by Qatari flying ace Sheikh Hamad Ali Jabor Al Thani, one of the favourites for the 25,000 km event. "It is a great relief to know that all the months of preparations have not been wasted," he said.

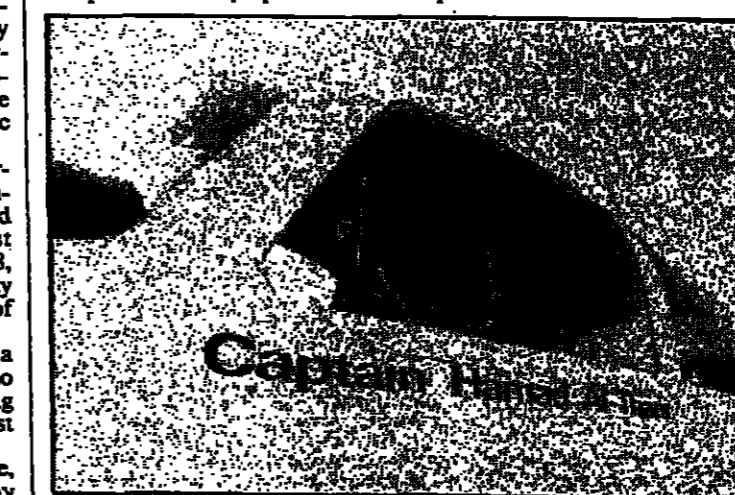
"If the start had been delayed then the planned stops would also have been affected. Once Bernard Lamy explained the importance and significance of the race, the French controllers agreed to delay their industrial action and let the event take place."

Sheikh Hamad, the first Arab pilot to fly single-handed around the world, will spend the next few days leading up to the race with his aircraft Dubai Victory, a Cessna 310 sponsored by Emirates, the international airline of the UAE.

"I have never flown this particular type of light aircraft before so it is important I get a good feel of it before we set off from Paris to Malaysia," he added.

Accompanying Sheikh Hamad in the Paris-Langkawi-Paris race will be Saudi Arabian co-pilot Mohammed Al Amir and British journalist Jim Gilchrist. All three members of the crew will meet with the other 13 competing teams in Paris on Sunday (Feb 4) for a pre-race briefing with the organisers.

"The main talking point is the weather," said Sheikh Hamad. "Obviously the recent storms in Europe have worried many of the pilots but we are hoping that the worst is over and that everything will be fine come the day of the race. However, you can never predict what is going to happen so it is important we are prepared for the unexpected."



Sheikh Hamad in the Paris-Langkawi-Paris race.

Kuwait take 2-0 lead in Davis Cup



Khalid Rashid in action.

KUWAIT took a 2-0 lead over Syria on the first day of their Asia/Oceania Zone Group Two, first round match at the Kuwait Tennis Federation courts at the Yarmouk Club yesterday.

Kuwait won the first match when Khalid Ashkanani beat Syria's Samer Murad 6-4 7-5 2-6 6-3. Khalid Hassan Rashid further consolidated this lead when he overcame a tough Dawood Dadian for a 7-6 7-6 2-6 victory.

The event was opened in the afternoon by the Governor of the Capital Sheikh Jaber Al Abdulla Al Sabah.

Khalid Ashkanani was made to fight for every point in all the four sets. The Syrian fought back by winning the third set after losing the first two but Khalid Ashkanani did not allow the game to get out of hand and took the fourth set comfortably.

Khalid Rashid had very tough two sets before he brushed aside his opponents in the third to take the match.

This morning Kuwait and Syria play their doubles game with Khalid Ashkanani and Khalid Rashid taking on Samer and Dawood. If Kuwait win today's match, tomorrow's reverse singles will have no bearing on the outcome.

In Perth, Australia's Wally Masur produced a remarkable fightback to beat Yannick Noah in five sets and save the host nation from potential embarrassment in their Davis Cup world group first round tennis tie against France yesterday.

Masur recovered from two sets to one down to seize a 4-6 6-3 4-6 6-3 6-2 victory against Noah and level the tie at 1-1 following compatriot Darren Cahill's straight-sets defeat by Henri Leconte in the opening singles.

"It looked as though France was preparing to stage a repeat of the previous Davis Cup tie between the two countries in Clermont-Ferrand in 1988 when Australia were whitewashed 5-0.

until Masur dug deep into his reserves of character to upset the in-form Noah.

The Frenchman, ranked ninth in the world after reaching the semifinals of the Australian Open last week, had looked almost certain to give his slide a 2-0 lead on the opening day but was let down when it mattered by his second serve.

After Masur had fought back to square the match at two sets all, Noah twice served double faults on break point against him in the fifth set to hand the Australian a 5-2 lead.

Masur, who lost an equally tight five-set tussle with Mats Wilander at the Australian Open in his previous match, kept his nerve this time and broke Noah again to secure his first victory over his opponent.

In Christchurch, the outcome of New Zealand's Davis Cup tennis tie against Yugoslavia will be decided by the reverse singles after the European team won yesterday's doubles rubber.

Experienced grass court specialist Slobodan Zivojnovic teamed up with teenager Goran Ivanisevic to outclass Kelly Evernden and Steve Guy 7-5 6-3 6-7 (4-7) 7-5.

The New Zealanders could not reproduce the dynamic form they had shown in the opening singles which gave them a 2-0 lead against the third seeds going into yesterday's play.

And in Cagliari, Italy, Paolo Cane fought back from two sets down to beat Jonas Svensson yesterday and give Italy a 1-0 lead in their Davis Cup world group first round tennis tie against number two seeds Sweden.

Cane, back in the team after serving a suspension for bad behaviour, turned the match when he won four straight games in the third and fourth sets to triumph 3-6 2-6 6-3 6-3 6-1 and fire Italian hopes of an upset against last year's losing finalists.

Graf records 50th straight singles win

TOKYO, Feb. 2, (Reuters): Steffi Graf completed her 50th consecutive singles victory today when she overcame Larisa Savchenko of the Soviet Union 6-0 6-3 to claim her place in the semifinals of the Pan Pacific women's tennis tournament.

The 20-year-old West German, enjoying the longest winning streak of her career, had equalled her previous best sequence of 46 wins, set in 1988, when she beat American Patty Fendick in the quarterfinals of last month's Australian Open.

"She said: 'I have been in a great streak. It is very difficult to keep winning matches, not losing matches, as I lost only twice last year.'"

Graf, the world number one, remains some distance away from establishing a new all-time record for consecutive victories in women's tennis. The record of 74 is held by Martina Navratilova.

Graf has lost to only four players — Argentine Gabriela Sabatini (three times), Navratilova (twice), Pam Shriver and Arantxa Sanchez — since January 1987. In that time she has won 239 matches and lost seven.

Graf will meet third seed Manuela Maleeva of Switzerland in the semifinals tomorrow. Sanchez faces unseeded Japanese Akiko Kijimuta, who defeated compatriot Nana Miyagi 7-6 (7-2) 2-6 6-3 today, in the other semifinal.

Maleeva, 22, whose agents have announced she will represent Switzerland instead of her native Bulgaria this year, beat Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands 6-2 6-0.

Second seed Sanchez, ranked fifth in the world, also reached the last four with a 1-6 6-1 6-2 victory over sixth seed Gigi Fernandez of the United States.

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